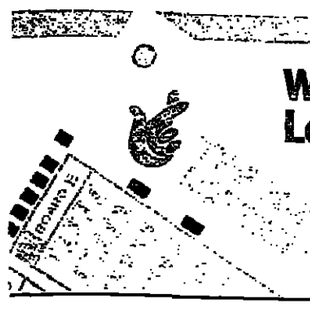
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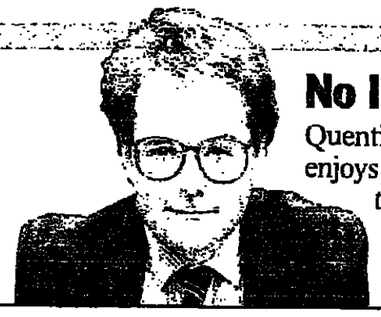
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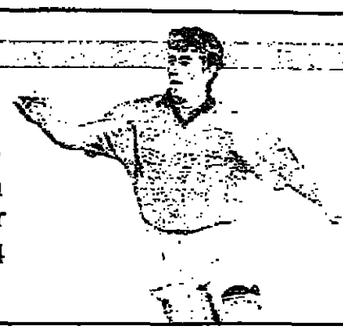
Win £5,000 of Lottery tickets
1,000 each for five runners-up
PAGE 22



No limit
Quentin Letts enjoys the right to speed
PAGE 11



Stay cool
Magnus Linklater on the joys of coping with heavy weather
PAGE 14



Football
Manchester United close gap on the leaders
PAGE 40

Cold weather cash for millions

Thousands are still cut off as snow spreads

BY JILL SHERMAN, GILLIAN BOWDITCH AND JONATHAN PRYNN

TENS of millions of pounds have been promised to sick and elderly people across large areas of Britain as continuing Arctic conditions *claimed at least three lives* yesterday and disrupted transport.

The Government's £8.50 weekly cold weather payments go out automatically to those deemed vulnerable when temperatures fall to freezing or below for a seven-day period in a specific area.

They are made to three groups on income support: families with children under five, the disabled, and pensioners. The payments, to a potential three million recipients, stop as soon as temperatures rise, although they can be paid for consecutive weeks.

Some of the worst conditions during the current cold snap have been endured by those in Shetland and the Western Isles, where scores of households were still without power last night.

Most of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the east of England from the Scottish border as far south as Essex remained blanketed under snow yesterday after heavy falls on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day.

Snow showers are expected today in Essex and Kent with sub-zero temperatures persisting through much of the country until the weekend.

Last night Opposition MPs called for the cold weather payment system to be reviewed to take into account the exceptionally low temperatures in Scotland and the North of England. Charities complained that many on income support would not be entitled to any cash.

George Foulkes, Labour MP for Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley, called for a "double premium" when the temperature fell to -10C (14F) for 24 hours or longer. The chairman of the all-party pensioners' group said: "The weather is so severe that there ought to be some consideration about a double premium for when it gets below -10C degrees."

David Winnick, MP for *Walsall North*, also criticised the scheme, adding: "The Prime Minister should intervene to authorise payments in all areas of the country. The weather is sufficiently harsh and, therefore, these payments are certainly justified, modest as they are."

John Crowe, of the National Right to Fuel Campaign, said the number of poor households without help would outnumber those eligible for payments. "Any family receiving income support, with a child over five for example, will get nothing."

The Department of Social Security said last night that cold weather payments had so far been triggered in virtually al Scotland, Tyneside, Teesside, Carlisle, Manchester, Birmingham, North Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, West Midlands and Wiltshire.

Meanwhile, two children died in Co Durham after a lorry smashed into a stationary car on the busy snowfall-hit A19 near Easington. The 15-year-old boy and his four-year-old sister from Tyneside were in the back seat.

In Northern Ireland, one man died and another was injured in a car crash early yesterday as temperatures plunged to a December record low of -13C (9F). The accident happened when the men's Peugeot 205 left the Ballygawley Road at Dungannon, Co Tyrone. The hurt man suffered head and leg injuries.

Forecasters said yesterday that Scotland was enduring one of its coldest winters in memory. Shetland, theisland group 80 kilometers north of Orkney with a population of 22,500, was in the teeth of the storm.

The Islands Council, which declared a state of emergency on Boxing Day, met representatives of the police and coastguard yesterday to work out a strategy for coping. The chief executive, Malcolm Green, said there was no need to call on outside assistance.

Shetland islanders, known for their strong community spirit, were visiting elderly and vulnerable neighbours to ensure that they were safe.

Neville Davis, of the Shetland coastguard, said it was working as a secondary emergency service. "We are mainly involved with airlifting people to hospital. We've had about 12 evacuations over the last couple of days. We took a couple of elderly people suffering from suspected hypothermia to hospital today and we've airlifted people with heart problems and breathing difficulties.

"We also airlifted a mother who was stranded with a three-day-old baby in Sumburgh back to Lerwick so that she could get supplies."

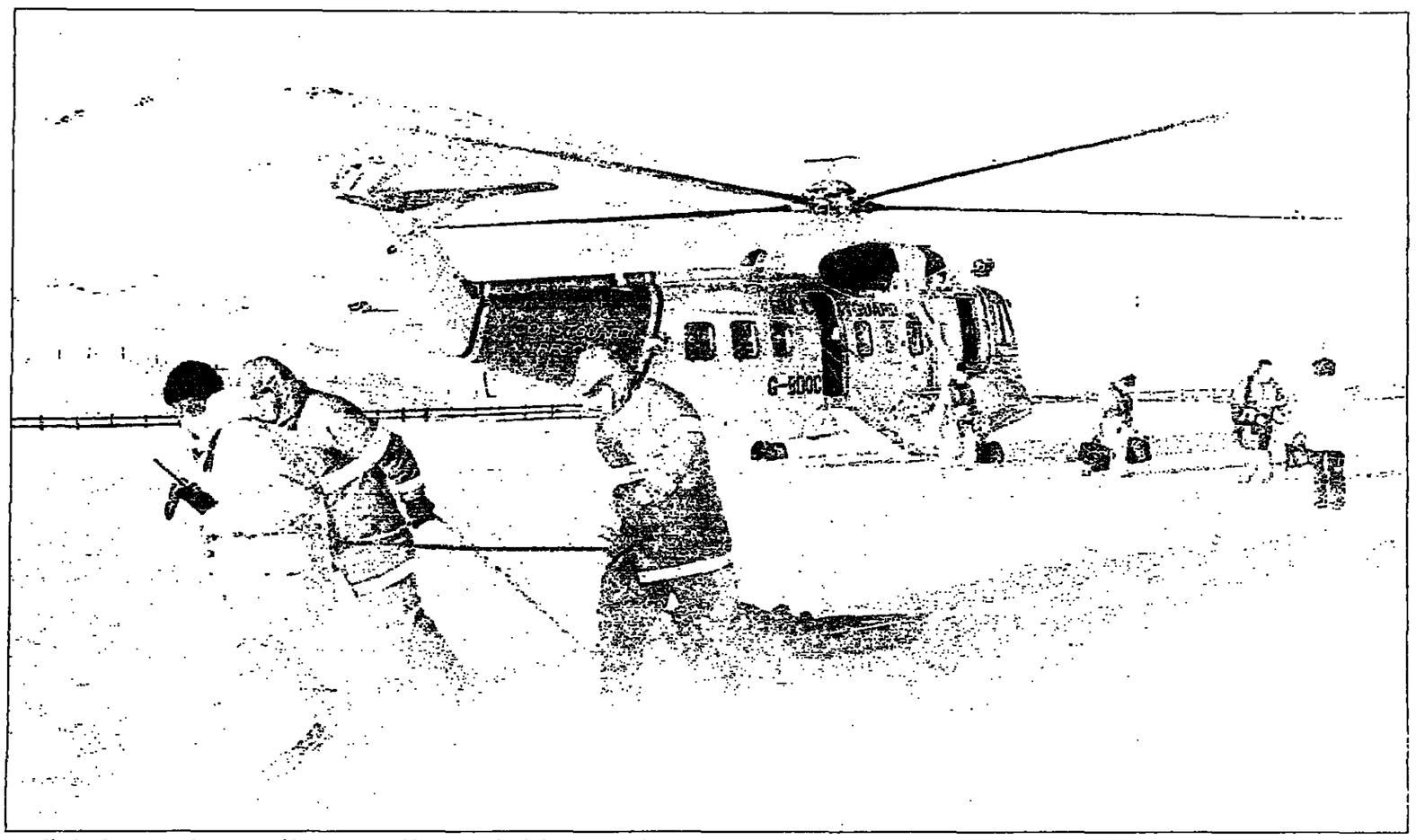
Mr Davis said the rescue centre in Lerwick had had electricity supplies throughout, as had the local hospital, but the whole of the island had been affected by the snow. "I've certainly never seen anything like this on Shetland before. Walking to the helicopter landing pad, the snow was knee deep. There has been a huge effort to get the roads open," he said.

The Lerwick lifeboat was delivering coal, milk and bottled gas on a 140-mile round trip to the most remote communities. The lifeboat *Snolva* will also take food to three families in Brindister who have run out. The first

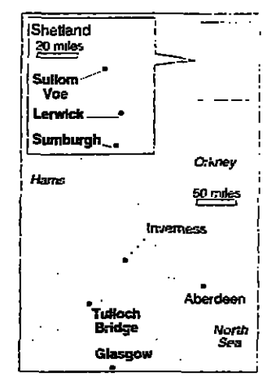
Continued on page 2, col 3

INSIDE

Reports ..... Page 2
Magnus Linklater ..... Page 14
Diary ..... Page 14
Leading article ..... Page 15



Shetland coastguard rescuers taking a suspected hypothermia victim to hospital at Lerwick. There have been 12 such flights in the past two days



Forte in fast food sale

Forte confirmed the sale of the Little Chef, Happy Eater and Welcome Break roadside businesses to Whitbread for £1.05 billion as part of its defence against the £3 billion bid from Granada. The disposal leaves Forte as a pure hotels group.

The deal raised City hopes that Forte would return some of the proceeds to shareholders through a special dividend. The deadline for its defence against Granada, an ideal opportunity to announce a special dividend, is next Tuesday..... Pages 21, 25

Public sector pay clash looms

John Major faces confrontation over pay with doctors, nurses and teachers, who are seeking increases of up to 8 per cent. Their review bodies are expected to recommend rises above the inflation rate ..... Page 2

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52

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Christmas presents reach hostages held in Kashmir

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

TWO British hostages held in *Kashmir since July* have received taped Christmas greetings, woolly socks and winter clothing from loved ones through intermediaries in India. The captives are guarded by 20 separatist gunmen at 10,000 ft in the Himalayan foothills, their lives in the balance.

The British High Commission in Delhi, which has made extraordinary efforts to save the men, is seeking face-to-face talks with representatives of Al Faran, the kidnap group. Attempts were being made before the holiday to arrange a meeting in Delhi with Hilary Synnott, the Minister at the High Commission, in the hope of persuading the rebels to release the men in a humanitarian Christmas gesture.

There were direct telephone contacts between Sir Nicholas Fenn, the High Commissioner, and representatives of Al-Faran earlier this month in which it was made clear that the British Government would not pay money to the rebels. The strategy of diplomats in recent weeks has been to try to persuade the group to let the men go over Christmas, which would be interpreted around the world as a magnanimous gesture.

British diplomats who have spent months in Srinagar, capital of the Kashmir Valley, made contact with various militant organisations before establishing direct communications with Al Faran. Militants have confirmed that the presents reached the two Britons, Keith Mangan and Paul Wells. The group is also holding an American, Donald Hutchings, and a German, Dirk Hasert.

Indian troops know almost precisely where the captives are held. "They are not moving around very much because of the severe cold," a senior government source said. "It is snowing heavily."

At the request of Britain, America and Germany, the Indian Government has ordered troops not to attempt to rescue the men in a commando operation, since the captives would almost certain-

Continued on page 2, col 5

Father pleads for help in hunt for Celine

BY JOANNA BALE

THE father of the missing French student Celine Figard made a public appeal yesterday for help in tracing her.

Speaking through a relative acting as an interpreter, Bernard Figard asked British lorry drivers to come forward with clues to the identity of the man who gave his daughter a lift on Tuesday last week. The last time she was seen, she was talking to the driver of a Mercedes lorry.

M Figard, a 44-year-old farmer, said: "Please keep helping us, we need to find Celine. Lorry drivers, if you have any information regarding the Mercedes lorry, please keep helping the police."

He also appealed directly to his daughter, saying: "Celine, if you can hear us, if you can see us, please show yourself. All your family and friends are waiting for you."

Haulage experts said yesterday that it was likely the lorry, which bore no company name or logo, was one of thousands of rented vehicles and would be difficult to trace. It was described as a white, two-axle 1733 Mercedes Benz tractor unit, about three years old, pulling a light grey trailer with a 38 to 40-ton Thermo King refrigeration unit.

Detective Constable Steve White of Hampshire Police, said: "There are about 1,300 of these particular Mercedes trucks on the road and the only unusual thing about this one was that it was not sign-written, which might suggest it was rented."

Lorry holds key, page 3

Princess goes on Caribbean sunshine holiday



Princess: island-bound

BY JOANNA BALE

THE Princess of Wales left snow-bound Britain for the sunny Caribbean yesterday, as her two sons continued to enjoy a traditional royal Christmas with their father at Sandringham.

The Princess, who boarded a plane at *Heathrow, was thought to be heading for* the island of Nevis, which she visited three years ago with her sons within weeks of the announcement of her official separation from the Prince of Wales.

Her British West Indian Airways flight was destined for Antigua in the Leeward Islands, from where she was expected to take a 20-minute flight on to Nevis. Princes William and Harry, 13 and 11, are still at Sandringham with their father, although they could join her later as they are not due back at school until January 10.

On her last trip to Nevis in 1993, the Princess stayed at the Montpelier Plantation Inn in the south of the island. A spokeswoman said: "If the Princess was staying here we certainly would not be confirming the fact."

The Princess is reported to have had a cold Christmas lunch, left for her by staff who had been given the holiday off, followed by a trip to her psychotherapist on Boxing Day. She spent more than an hour visiting Susie Orbach, who counselled her over her bulimia several years ago. The Princess was pictured smiling as she left the feminist writer's clinic at her home in northwest London. She was also reported to have visited the clinic on Christmas Eve after seeing Prince William and Prince Harry off to Sandringham.

While Nevis was thought to be the most likely destination for the Princess, Antigua is at the centre of a long chain of islands, many of them providing the seclusion she is no doubt seeking, and some of which she has visited before.

TV & RADIO 38, 39
WEATHER 20
CROSSWORDS 20, 40
LETTERS 15
OBITUARIES 17
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 14
ARTS 30, 31
CHESS & BRIDGE 35
COURT & SOCIAL 16
SPORT 34-38, 40
BODY AND MIND 12
LAW REPORT 19



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Major faces battle over public-sector pay demands

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR is facing a damaging confrontation with teachers, doctors and nurses over demands for significant pay rises next year.

Teachers' leaders will today call for rises of at least 4 per cent while the Royal College of Nursing has asked for an extra 8 per cent. The British Medical Association has just submitted a claim of between 5 to 8 per cent.

The five independent pay review bodies, which cover 1.4 million public sector workers, are expected to recommend increases averaging above the 3.1 per cent rate of inflation, but this is not expected to go far enough for most groups involved. The bodies will make their recommendations to the Prime Minister next month and a decision will be taken by the Cabinet within a few weeks.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will fight any attempts to award high pay rises, arguing that this would push up inflation and jeopardise tax cuts in the next Budget. He has already made clear that the Treasury will not provide any extra money and that all public-sector pay rises will have to be offset by gains in efficiency and productivity.

Today the National Association of Head Teachers says that schools will find it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain good teachers unless they are given a substantial rise. The move is expected to inflame rows over funding shortages just as ministers hoped they had died down.

David Hart, the association's general secretary, says that, as the economy recovers, good graduates will be tempted increasingly into better jobs. In a letter sent to the School Teachers' Review Body today, Mr Hart says that a poor pay rise would increase the risk of another teaching shortage. Experts have already estimated that there could be a shortfall of 30,000 by the end of the decade.

"The Government must accept that there is a looming crisis in teacher recruitment which must be averted at all costs," Mr Hart says. "This can only be averted if the STRB awards teachers a pay settlement for 1996 which enables schools to recruit and retain. That means it must at least be competitive with the rise in average earnings."

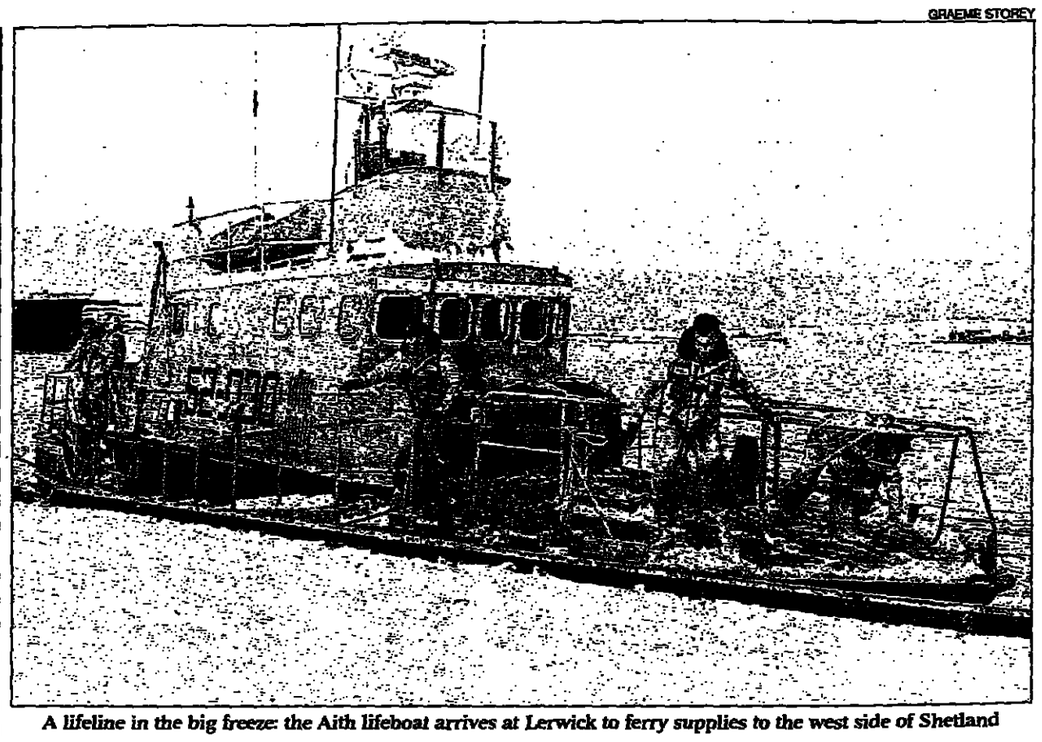
Teachers, nurses and doctors have all suffered from Mr Clarke's public-sector pay freeze over the past two years. The Royal College of Nursing, which represents nearly 500,000 nurses, is now demanding a significant award to catch up. It is also arguing against any local pay bargaining next year despite the Government's desire to extend this. Any clash with ministers could test the college's new rule, which allows its members to take strike action.

This year the Government gave nurses a 1 per cent pay rise and allowed NHS trusts to add up to another 2 per cent. After a successful campaign by the college, 97 per cent of trusts eventually agreed to award their nurses the full 3 per cent. "This year demonstrates that local pay bargaining is a farce," said a nurses' spokesman. "It took nine months for health trusts to agree to the 3 per cent."

Tory MPs in mortal danger

The Conservatives' parliamentary majority could be wiped out by next summer, according to mortality data published yesterday. Lane Clark and Peacock, consulting actuaries, say four Tory MPs are likely to die before next Christmas. The Government's majority is expected to fall to three after two by-elections now pending. The death of only two Tory MPs could, therefore, transform the Government into a minority administration.

GRAEME STOREY



A lifeline in the big freeze: the Aith lifeboat arrives at Lerwick to ferry supplies to the west side of Shetland

Man dies after 45 minutes under ice

BY LEYLA LINTON

A MAN who fell through ice as he tried to rescue his dog from a lake died last night after spending more than 45 minutes under the surface.

Rescuers repeatedly risked their lives in attempts to reach Robert Giles, 25. When they finally pulled him from the water, his body temperature had dropped to 18C and he was not breathing. However, the body's organs can last longer without oxygen in cold temperatures. He survived for three hours after resuscitation.

Mr Giles's dog, a white highland terrier, managed to clamber to safety by itself from Anton's Lake near Andover, Hampshire.

One of the rescuers, Paul Parry, a fireman, plunged into the water three times. He said: "The first time, I had a line tied to me, but the water was so cold I could not break the ice and maintain my footing. I went back after someone had got a surfboard, and I paddled out to where he had fallen, about 30ft from shore.

"I still could not see the bottom of the lake so I came back and got a hook to try to find him. It kept getting stuck in the weeds and mud."

Detective Constable Tony Hewitt, a diving enthusiast, heard about the emergency on his radio and went home to fetch equipment. Inspector David Waller, of Andover police, said: "He got some ropes and his diving suit and began smashing the ice. He waded into the water, breaking the ice as he went, but could not submerge himself because he did not have the right gear. By this time, a coastguard helicopter had arrived and Tony waded back to the shore.

"He roped up with a coastguard frogman and they waded back into the water. The coastguard, who was also not equipped to dive underneath, thought he saw a person on the bottom. They took it in turns to duck under, and Tony found the man in about three metres of water. He was on the bottom of the lake. However, they could not pull him up."

The two men went back to the bank and the coastguard took some of DC Hewitt's weights. He swam back out and dived under and finally pulled Mr Giles to the surface. People on the bank pulled them in on their ropes.

Mr Giles was flown to the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester, where Dr Martin Nancekevil said: "The cold would have stopped the heart and other organs. Their oxygen requirement is then drastically reduced."

Millions to get cold weather cash

Continued from page 1

supplies to reach Shetland from the mainland since Christmas Eve are due into Lerwick today on the P&O ferry St Clair.

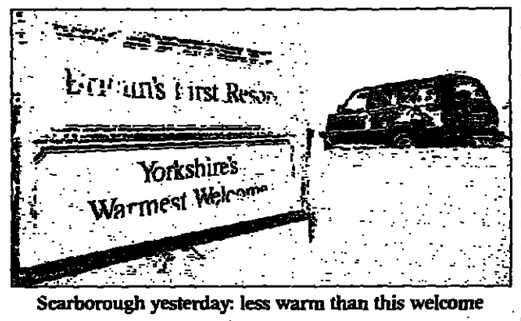
The privatised electricity company Scottish Hydro-Electric expected all but a handful of homes to be reconnected today but admitted that some families would wake up this morning to a fifth day without power.

Shetland, where it was -5C (23F) overnight, was one of the mildest places in Scotland yesterday. In Glasgow, the temperature fell to -18.7C (1F) in the early hours, making it the coldest night there on record. Tulloch Bridge in the southwest Highlands was the coldest place in Scotland yesterday at -20C (-3F) — several degrees below Moscow or Oslo and on a par with Helsinki and Stockholm. Six months ago, the remote moor near Fort William, which has an automatic weather station, was the hottest place in Britain for several days with temperatures of 30C (86F).

Rail services in Scotland were said to be in a state of "near anarchy". Hundreds of trains were cancelled when wheels stuck to frozen tracks as temperatures fell to -21C (-4F). In the worst incident, more than a hundred passengers were trapped in a tunnel under Glasgow city centre for eight hours when the train they were in broke down.

Although all main roads on the British mainland were open by lunchtime yesterday, all routes in Shetland remained blocked and hundreds of high-level minor roads in the Highlands of Scotland and the moors of northern England stayed impassable.

Only in Nottingham was there a thaw — at the city ice-rink. Despite sub-zero temperatures outside, the David Essex ballet "Beauty and The Beast" featuring the Russian All Stars had to be abandoned when the rink turned to water.



Scarborough yesterday: less warm than this welcome

Magnus Linklater, page 14
Medical briefing, page 12
Diary, page 14

Cold kills boy who tried to walk home

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A BOY froze to death while trying to walk home after a car accident.

John Colquhoun, 16, collapsed in sub-zero temperatures only about a mile from the scene of the accident early on Christmas Day.

The teenager had tried to walk the three miles to his house after his friend's car skidded off the road and became stuck in snow near the village of Mauchline, Strathclyde. His family had to identify John's body on Christmas Day.

The apprentice slater had been at a party and was returning home when the car left the icy road. He and his friend decided to make for their homes, in opposite directions, on foot. Strathclyde Police said that John, of Drongan, was discovered later in a frozen state. He was dead on arrival at Ayr Hospital.

His sister Mandy said: "He was wearing just a thin jacket and it had started snowing hard when he was trying to walk. It was extremely cold that night.

"As far as we know, he tried to find shelter, fell asleep and just died in the snow. It is just terrible. We knew something was wrong when he didn't show up in the morning and then heard on the radio that a body had been found.

"We had to go to the hospital and identify him. It is a terrible thing to happen at any time, but to happen on Christmas Day is just tragic."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lawyers vote on complaint scheme

Ballot papers have been sent to 12,500 members of the Bar on whether it should introduce a complaints system. A ballot of the whole membership was decided before Christmas by a meeting which rejected a modified scheme proposed by Bar leaders.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, the outgoing Bar chairman, says in a letter with ballot papers that the scheme is now modest and contains "strong safeguards to protect barristers against frivolous and unfounded complaints". Rejecting it would send "all the wrong messages about the attitude of the Bar to our clients" and would expose the Bar to the imposition of a "far more draconian" and externally operated scheme.

Watchdog in dock, page 6

NHS drugs 'privatised'

The Government was accused yesterday of stealthily privatising NHS medicines. A health management expert said that continually putting up prescription charges, blacklisting certain drugs and removing others from the prescription register added up to privatisation.

Alan Earl-Slater, a Research Fellow at the Health Services Management Centre, Birmingham University, claimed in a public finance journal that the Government was following the policy "without either admitting it or having the mandate to do it".

Beef sales 'down 25%'

Almost 1½ million households which bought beef in the run-up to Christmas last year decided not to this year, according to research by the marketing firm Nielsen. There was a steady decline in beef buying from the beginning of last month and by the week ending December 16 sales were down more than 25 per cent, compared to the same time in 1994.

Sales of beefburgers in the first two weeks of December were down 25 per cent, then continued to fall to more than 40 per cent in the week ending December 16, compared to last year.

Banks urges peer's sacking

The Labour MP Tony Banks called on Tony Blair to sack Baroness Mallalieu, the party's home and legal affairs spokeswoman, because of her support for hunting. Mr Banks demanded her removal after she said that Labour peers could scupper any Bill to ban fox-hunting.

Lady Mallalieu, who rides with the Bicester Hunt, said that entrenched opposition by peers would effectively prevent such a Bill becoming law. Mr Banks said the abolition of hunting was agreed Labour Party policy and it was "unacceptable" that Lady Mallalieu should defy it.

Major aide turns to gas

An adviser to John Major is to leave Downing Street in the new year to work for British Gas. Roderic Lyne, 43, a former diplomat, will be seconded to the company's overseas business team.

Mr Lyne helped to negotiate the IRA's ceasefire 16 months ago. British Gas said: "He will remain a Foreign Office employee and will be returning to the diplomatic service when his secondment finishes." Whitehall sources said there was nothing significant about Mr Lyne's departure: a normal stint for a private secretary was two to four years.

Christmas cheer but no freedom for hostages

Continued from page 1

ly be killed. Tim Devlin, Labour MP for Stockton South, said yesterday that gifts had been sent to the hostages. He added that Al Faran had asked officials at the British High Commission to arrange payment of compensation for expenses incurred by holding the men.

"With the mention of the word compensation I think they are looking for some reasonable way out. I think they are looking for some sort of face-saving mechanism to withdraw from the situation," Mr Devlin said.

He said India was not going to release prisoners and Britain would not give any money to the kidnappers. "They have made their point. We understand the desire of the militants in Kashmir. They have had some world attention. If I were them I would leave it at that." Mr Mangan, an electrician, lives in Mr Devlin's constituency. It is not the first time compensation has been mentioned: earlier in the crisis Al Faran broke off contacts with Indian intermediaries after local newspapers published reports saying the rebels were seeking ransom.

Al Faran said the stories were planted by the Indian Government to make the group look like "common criminals". The last direct contact with Indian officials via radio was on November 26, when the kidnappers demanded the release of three top militants, whom they named.

Al Faran has been told that India will not release prisoners in exchange for the hostages. The captives' partners, in appealing for the men's release, have emphasised in public statements that there is no possibility of the demand being met. Al Faran has claimed in statements at various times during the crisis that one or more of the men was ill or injured, and it is known that the group has sought medicines from local pharmacies. There is no firm evidence, however, that any of the men is seriously unwell.

All the hostages were trekking with their partners when they were seized. The women were released immediately. They waited out the crisis for months in Srinagar and at the British High Commission compound in Delhi before returning home.

Al Faran appears to have been created specifically for the seizure of foreign hostages in an attempt to get key militants out of Indian jails. It is believed to be linked with Harkat-ul Ansar, a militant organisation based in Pakistan. One theory is that it is a renegade group operating independently of Harkat's leadership. Islamic groups around the world have appealed for Al Faran to let the men go because it is sullying the reputation of the separatist cause in Kashmir.

Even among Islamic fundamentalist groups in Pakistan there is a sense that the group realises its demands will not be met and that it is looking for a face-saving way out. Abdul Hamid Turkey, self-styled commander-in-chief of Al Faran, was killed in an exchange of fire with Indian forces on December 4 in a village near Anantnag in the Kashmir Valley, close to where the hostages are being held in the Pahalgam area.



Mangan and Wells, third and fourth from left, with three other hostages when they were seized

CPS apologises to court for day off

THE Crown Prosecution Service began an inquiry yesterday into why it had not sent anyone to a Boxing Day magistrates' court sitting, leaving 31 defendants to walk free (Joanna Bale writes).

Gordon Etherington, the Chief Crown Prosecutor, began the investigation after sending a senior official to apologise to the court. Andrew Hadik, branch prosecutor for Camberwell, south London, went to Old Street Magistrates' Court and issued a statement, saying: "Once [the Chief Crown Prosecutor] has all the facts, he will be making reports and taking what action is necessary." The hearing was one of a handful held around the country on Boxing Day to deal with people arrested over Christmas.

The 31 defendants, facing charges ranging from supplying drugs to burglary, were freed when Michael Johnstone, a stipendiary magistrate, discharged them because nobody from the CPS turned up to prosecute them. A spokesman for the service said that 13 defendants would be rearrested; a decision had yet to be made on the others.

Liz Justice, a CPS spokeswoman, said: "The court was not on our rota system so we did not send anyone. The irony is that we did have a spare advocate on stand-by, but no one managed to contact us.

"We are taking this very seriously because we don't want people walking the streets when they should have been locked up. We are still trying to trace one member of staff to see whether she was notified, but we will not be able to build up a complete picture until people return from the Christmas break."

She added last night: "We have no record of being officially notified at our head office that there was a court sitting at Old Street on Boxing Day. The clerk had put a notice up in the CPS room at the court, but that was overlooked."



هذا من الأصل

Haulage experts believe unmarked vehicle was rented and will prove difficult to trace

Lorry holds key to French student's disappearance

By Joanna Bale

THE lorry in which the missing French student Celine Figard was last seen is likely to prove difficult to trace, haulage experts said yesterday. As police issued posters showing the Mercedes Benz lorry, it emerged that it was probably one of thousands owned or rented by small freelance operators.

The lorry had no company name or logo on it. Ian Norwell, of Mercedes Benz, said: "If the truck and trailer were part of a big company, they would have had a name on the side. This was almost certainly a rented trailer because it was plain. He was also driving a plain white Mercedes tractor unit truck, which is the most common colour ordered by big companies because they are easier to sell second-hand to smaller companies and owner-drivers.

"He hasn't been traced yet, which suggests he might be an owner-driver, but they do tend to personalise their own trucks, whereas this one was plain, so was most likely rented."

Mercedes Benz sells about 2,000 tractor units every year at an average cost of £70,000 each, and many are sold on to second or third owners. The 1733 model is between three and six years old.

John Gutteridge, of the Freight Transport Association, also said yesterday that the driver was probably renting and would therefore be difficult to trace. "If he worked for a large company, he would have been traced by now. Given the time of year, with the pressure for pre-Christmas deliveries, he might have been making a trip he would not normally make.

"The best bet in tracing will come from other truck drivers who tend to know each other. The description of the lorry is quite specific, but a lot of people who hold truck driving licences appear and disappear from the scene. They don't necessarily drive full-time, so this man may have gone to ground, even abroad."

David Lowe, sales director of Thermo King Northern, said that Thermo King trailers were very common. "About half of all refrigerated trailers on the road are Thermo King. There are thousands of them.



The Mercedes 1733: one of 1,300 on the road

This one probably belongs to a rental company because it did not have a name on the side, but all sorts of people rent trailers, especially at Christmas, including large companies."

One employee at TIP, a trailer rental firm, said: "A new Thermo-King trailer costs about £40,000, but you can rent one for £300 a week. They are very common, and you get all sorts of people renting them, from blue-chip companies to one man set-ups."

Detective Chief Superintendent Des Thomas, who is leading the hunt for Mlle Figard, said the lorry driver held the key to the investigation: "If he's a bona fide chap there's no reason why he should not come forward and help us." He said the incident room had been inundated with calls offering leads, but added: "I have no doubt at all we will find this lorry driver. My great concern is we will not find him in time to recover Celine."

He said police were treating the search as a murder inquiry. "I had the unfortunate duty of telling her father I am somewhat pessimistic about the outcome of this. We all hope and pray we will find Celine alive. It will be the best thing that could happen, but experience has shown that is not necessarily the case after this amount of time."

Mlle Figard was last known to have accepted a lift from a lorry driver at the Granada service station on the A34 at Chieveley, near Newbury, Berkshire. It is thought the lorry driver from whom she accepted the lift had told her that he would take her as far as Salisbury, Wiltshire.

She had intended to catch a bus from Salisbury to Fordingbridge, Hampshire, to spend Christmas with her cousin, Jean-Marc Figard, 24. Because of problems ringing him from the service area, she was going to use the mobile telephone in the driver's cab, but her cousin received no call.

The owner of the Ashburn Hotel in Fordingbridge, where Miss Figard's cousin worked, described her yesterday as a "charming girl". Gary Robson said: "Celine is a polite, well-brought up and good-mannered girl. Everyone at the hotel is terribly shocked and upset that she has gone missing. We are hoping for the best."



Bernard Figard praised the police, top, shown searching a field beside the A303, south of where Celine Figard was last seen, for their efforts in trying to trace his daughter, who had been hitch-hiking to visit her cousin

Missing A-level pupil 'victim of bullying'

By Bill Frost

A MISSING sixth-former whose belongings were found beside a cliff had been the victim of bullying at school, his father said last night.

Unknown to his parents, 18-year-old Andrew Smith had stayed away from school for three weeks before his disappearance. He was last seen on December 11. Two days ago, his bicycle and backpack were discovered, hidden near the Old Harry Rocks at Swanage, Dorset.

The teenager, who has 11 GCSEs, was studying for four A levels and an AS level at Poole Grammar School. He hoped to become an airline pilot. As police renewed their search for him yesterday, Ken Smith, 55, his father, said: "Until we get him back, we won't know for certain, but we are 99 per cent sure he has gone because of pranks and verbal abuse at school. From what we have learnt since Andrew went missing, it has been going on for about six months.

"Apparently a group of about five or six so-called mates were involved. They would do things like go to a party together and thought it was then a great idea to order a taxi but leave Andrew to make his own way home from about five miles away.

"He never spoke to us about it. Andrew is a very sensitive boy and this upset him. It never took much for him to burst into tears so he took the bullying very much to heart.

"He had been skipping school for about three weeks before he went missing, but we had no idea until we got a letter from the school telling us about it. He used to leave home as if everything was normal, but never actually arrived at school, and then come home in the evenings as if he had been there all day. On the day he left he seemed perfectly normal and didn't say anything to give us concern. The school have denied bullying goes on inside their gates but I know differently."

Sally Smith, 45, the teenager's mother, said: "We have spent the whole of Christmas just holding each other and crying." Like her husband, she hopes that their son is living rough, possibly in a beach hut or staying with a friend.

The parents are to appeal for their son on breakfast television today.

Extensive police searches using divers and tracker dogs have failed to produce any indication of his whereabouts. Yesterday a fresh search was started and a coastguard helicopter was brought in. A police spokesman said: "We are very worried about Andrew. He has never done anything like this before and there is great concern for his safety."

No spokesman for Poole Grammar School was available to comment on the teenager's disappearance last night.



Andrew Smith: hoped to become airline pilot

Shoppers extend Christmas break in rush to sales

By Robin Young

THE lure of the sales kept much of the nation away from work yesterday as bargain-hunters went on a shopping spree instead.

With more winter sales opening on the same day than ever before, crowds headed for out-of-town shopping malls or city centre stores rather than to work.

Even with fewer commuter trains than normal, most of the carriages were half empty in what should have been the rush hour. "We expected 60 per cent of normal weekday traffic," a spokesman for the London-Tilbury-Southend line said, "but we have probably got less than half. The trains only got busier off-peak, as people went shopping."

London Underground ran a modified Saturday service, and found that the busiest stations were those closest to the shops.

Mike Lamport, of the West Anglia Great Northern Railway, said: "The City is supposed to be working so we are running a full service, but we have had nothing like a full turnout. Only about 60 per cent of the normal number have travelled, and quite a lot were going shopping."

In the City of London, many of the banks and stockbrokers reported a quiet day, with employees extending their Christmas break into the new year. The FT-SE 100 index managed an 18.1 point rise in a day which saw one of the lowest trading volumes of the year, with fewer than 300 million shares traded. Many of the traders who did come into the office promptly went out for a long lunch, making a better-than-expected day for City watering holes.

AA Roadwatch said there had been no rush-hour traffic jams, adding: "The only congestion has been concentrated around shopping centres, which have been very, very busy."

In Newcastle upon Tyne, the brothers John and David Fowler had camped outside Barker and Stonehouse since Christmas Day to secure a two-sofa set in peach leather reduced from £2,265 to £95.

But sub-zero temperatures and some overnight snow limited early morning queues outside the West End stores in London. People started arriving at Selfridges in Oxford Street only 30 minutes before opening time, but when the doors opened at 9am, the managing director, Tim Daniels, claimed there were 600 waiting outside. The biggest rush was to the men's designerwear department, which remained one of the busiest areas of the shop throughout the day.

By noon, the store had taken £1 million, 19 per cent up on last year's midday figure. Mr Daniels said it appeared that the number of shoppers on Oxford Street was up by a fifth on last year.

"People are going for better quality merchandise," a store spokeswoman added, "spending more money and being more discriminating."

In general, shop-floors only filled with bargain hunters at about 10.30am, by which time security men were stationed at some escalators to ensure they did not become so crowded as to be unsafe.

As pressure on changing rooms built up, suited gents threw modesty to the winds and dropped their trousers behind racks of overcoats so that they could seek their wives' approval for new outfits. In the ladies' departments, women bearing armloads of hangers mercilessly pushed open doors and curtains concealing rival shoppers in states of semi-undress.

"It has been very hectic," said a spokeswoman at Fenwick in Bond Street, "but we do like our customers to retain a sense of decorum."

In Bristol city centre, car parks were full before the shops opened. Peter Tregellas, manager of the local Debenhams, said trade was 15 per cent up on last year.

At the MetroCentre on Tyneside, the biggest shopping complex in Europe, queues began forming more than two hours before opening time. The malls were opened early to let people in from the cold, and 7,000 flocked through the doors in the first half-hour. The car parks were full before 11am, but shoppers continued to arrive at the same pace throughout the day. "We have certainly matched last year, and possibly exceeded it," the centre's spokesman said.

Jackie Moores, manager of Manchester's 150-store Arndale Centre, said shoppers had braved temperatures of -4C. "There are a lot of people about for fashions, footwear, and sportswear," she said. "Only we retailers seem to be working."

BARGAIN-HUNTER'S CHECKLIST

LONDON

Burberry: ladies classic raincoat reduced from £395 to £235, men's trenchcoat from £525 to £295.

☐ **Fenwick:** Nicole Farhi satin jackets reduced from £199 to £99; John Smedley crew neck sweaters from £65 to £31.95; Fenn, Wright and Manson silk shirts from £115 to £55.

☐ **Gieves & Hawkes:** business suits reduced from £495 to £245, cashmere sweaters from £450 to £195 and tweed jackets £350 to £150.

☐ **Heal's:** handmade Avon bed reduced from £2,495 to £1,870, Trent oak sideboard from £1,295 to £885, curtain and upholstery fabrics from £3 a metre.

☐ **Liberty:** Issy Miyake and Yojhi Yamamoto fashions up to two-thirds off, Persian Bidjar Kelim rug reduced from £450 to £225.

☐ **Selfridges:** Blancpain men's watch reduced from £79,000 to £50,378; 1.5 litres of Shalimar eau de toilette, reduced from £2,500 to £1,250; Maxmara women's suit reduced from £305 to £152; Betty Jackson jackets from £315 to £157; Hugo Boss, Nicole Farhi and YSL fashions up to 50 per cent off; large sofa in selected hide reduced from £2,049 to £1,019; Persian hand-made rugs from £799 to £399.

☐ **Simpson:** men's Daks suits down from £299 to £149, jackets from £219 to £109 and trousers from £79 to £39. Ladies' Daks jackets from £229 to £159, Berrt Barclay trouser suit from £238 to £148, Louise Kennedy suits from £484 to £328.

NATIONWIDE

☐ **Austin Reed:** men's wool suits down from £279 to £199, women's winter coats from £279 to £139.

☐ **Bally:** 40 per cent off autumn and winter shoes.

☐ **Currys:** Sony 29in Surround Sound television with Fastext plus 4-head Nicam stereo video with VideoPlus at £1,299, saving £200.

☐ **Dixons:** Sony TR680 Hi8 hifi stereo camcorder reduced from £999.99 to £699.99; Canon Epoca 35mm zoom camera from £349.99 to £199.99; Grundig GT2105 21in Nicam television was £399.99, now £299.99.

☐ **Habitat:** solid beech table reduced from £399 to £279, sofa and armchair reduced from £1,448 to £1,158.

☐ **House of Fraser:** Argentum sterling silver cutlery 60-piece canteen reduced from £3,999 to £1,999; Sony TV/video was £699, now £499; a Relyon Royal packet-sprung mattress was £1095, now £595.

☐ **Kendals, Manchester:** Ralph Lauren wool dress was £580, now £290.

'Wrap up the whole store — I'll take it'

By Robin Young

ONE delighted shopkeeper claimed yesterday that an Arab sheikh had purchased almost the entire contents of his London store for £350,000 to give his third wife.

Martin Barnett, owner of a West End soft furnishings and embroidery shop, said that the sheikh, who did not want to be named, had been vouched for by Hamad bin Ali al-Thani, a member of the Qatari royal family, with whom Mr Barnett says he runs a shop in Doha. Mr Barnett said the sheikh's intention was to recreate the Edgware Road store to please his wife.

He said the sheikh's shopping list included two computerised embroidery machines at £40,000 each, 150 handmade sofas at £500 each and 150 matching chairs at £300. He added: "The sheikh saved himself at least £200,000 by buying in the sale. We still have enough stock to continue in business."



Martin Barnett outside his shop: a £350,000 sale

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Message to middle-aged: forget the jog, just skip the pudding

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

MIDDLE-AGED men feeling the effects of the festive season weighing heavily upon them would be better advised to diet than to take up jogging.

An American study has shown that both courses of action are helpful, but that weight loss has substantially more benefits than exercise alone. A team from the University of Maryland studied 111 overweight men between the ages of 46 and 80. They were split into three groups: 44 were told to lose 10 per cent of their body weight, 49 were told to exercise without losing weight, while the other 18 went on as before and served as controls. The trial lasted nine months.

Dr Leslie Katzel and his colleagues report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that the weight-loss and the exercise group had both benefited. Their levels of low density lipoprotein cholesterol — the so-called "bad" cholesterol that increases the risks of heart attacks — were down. So were levels of plasma triglycerides — fats found in the blood — and insulin. Both are indicators of coronary disease.

But the weight-loss group did significantly better. Not only were their decreases in glucose and insulin levels greater and their blood pressure lower, but they also showed gains in high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, the beneficial variety that cuts the risk of heart disease.

The older men found it harder to lose the weight, and did not gain as great a benefit. But the message is clear. All other things being equal, overweight and sedentary men should first think about losing weight. Dr Katzel concludes: "Collectively, these results suggest that weight loss is the preferred treatment to improve coronary artery disease risk factor profiles in healthy, overweight, sedentary, middle-aged and older men."

Another study published in the journal shows that lowering blood pressure in middle-age can have even greater benefits, enabling men to retain mental vigour into old age. The reason is that high blood pressure may cause many tiny "silent" strokes that have no obvious symptoms but can permanently impair memory and thinking ability, the scientists responsible believe.

Dr Lenore Launer, of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in The Netherlands, carried out a study with colleagues from the University of Hawaii and the US National Institute on Ageing. They returned to a group of Japanese-American men originally enrolled in a heart study in the 1960s, when they were middle-aged. They now have an average age of 78.

The team examined their ability to remember, to think abstractly, to make judgments and to concentrate. They found that those with a high systolic blood pressure — the first of the two figures in a blood pressure reading — in middle age were almost two and a half times more likely to have poor cognitive function in old age than those with a low systolic pressure.

For every 10-point increase in systolic blood pressure, there was a 9 per cent increase in the risk of poor cognitive function later in life. High systolic pressure was defined as more than 160, low as less than 110. A normal systolic reading is about 120.

☐ A gap between the sexes is narrowing on those classed as heavy smokers. Figures from the Advertising Association show 9 per cent of women admit to smoking more than 20 a day compared with 12 per cent of men. In 1982, the figures were 11 per cent for women and 18 for men.

Minister to issue pledge on release of the mentally ill

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A CHARTER for the mentally ill is to be announced by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, in an attempt to allay public concern over violent attacks by patients released into the community.

The charter, to be issued for consultation in the new year, will include the guarantee that patients will not be discharged from hospital if it is thought that there could be the slightest risk to carers, relatives or the public. Patients who are sent home will be able to get home visits from nurses or social workers within four hours in urgent cases.

Yesterday a charity for the homeless blamed a shortage of hospital beds for increasing numbers of mentally ill people being forced on to the streets this Christmas. The charity, Crisis, is providing 480 beds for the homeless in London this week, the biggest programme it has run. Its director, Martin Scothern, said the charity was helping more mentally ill people because "the people who ten years ago would have expected to go into hospital don't get that far and fall out of the system. There is a shortage of beds."

Mr Dorrell is anxious to quell public fears that the policy of care in the community is leading to attacks by the mentally ill. Highly publicised cases such as the murder of Jonathan Zito by Christopher Clunis at a London Tube station in 1992 have caused widespread concern.

There have been other tragedies since, and in August, Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, told NHS chairmen to improve care-in-the-community standards and report back to the Secretary of State. He is due to announce the outcome shortly.

The danger is that the policy will be seen simply as one of closing old asylums with nothing effective put in their place.

Yesterday Mr Dorrell said: "When there's comment about the mental health services, people often latch on to the phrase 'care in the community' and say this means the Government is not interested in hospital care, which isn't true. The phrase has become misleading because it has come to imply that the only type of mental health service we are interested in delivering is one based on community health and that is not the case.

"What we are concerned to do is deliver a spectrum of care, so that someone who is acutely mentally ill has their acute needs met in a hospital. And that there is care available in a sheltered setting for those who need it, that there is community care for those who need it and crisis teams for meeting crisis need.

"The standard I am looking for as a result of this Malone letter is not caring for everybody in the community, in the one-dimensional sense. It is a spectrum of care meeting health need. What the charter will do is set out what the patient is entitled to expect under the existing law."

Kate Harrison, of the mental health charity Mind, said that the fear of mental patients was disproportionate. "There are 12 murders a year by mentally ill people, out of a total of 700. While any incident of this sort is tragic, the impression the public has is exaggerated."

She doubted the charter would have much effect. "The truth is that there is a dearth of services for the mentally ill, plus a lack of social support and things to do. The Government should provide more money for community care and set national minimum standards, not issue another consultative document."



Dorrell: responding to public concerns

Village shop is crushed by kilos

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE owners of an award-winning village shop blame the cost of going metric for having to close. Steven and Sonia Dorward had run the store at Hawksworth, Nottinghamshire, for 26 years.

They had been able to make ends meet only by Mr Dorward, 57, working part-time at a tractor factory. Converting from pounds and ounces to kilograms last October cost them £3,000.

Mrs Dorward said: "We had a nice old weighing machine which we'd just had serviced, but we still had to change. It seemed to me very, very complicated for a little village shop. We tried weighing things beforehand and packaging them, but the customers didn't seem to like it."

Mr Dorward also blamed other factors: "We couldn't compete with supermarkets, and now our wholesale market has been moved and the supermarkets get first choice from the growers." Christine Cameron-Williams, a shopper at Dorward's, which won the Calor Gas award for Best Midlands Village Shop last year, said: "I'm very sad it's closed. It was a super shop and very much part of the village. Now you meet people who have always shopped at Dorward's wandering around Nottingham, looking rather lost."

Mr Dorward has become assistant manager at the tractor factory and his wife runs a sub-post office at the former shop.



Steven and Sonia Dorward: shutting their award-winning store after 26 years

Girl faces legal fight over her gift horse

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE owner of a riding centre is to take legal action in an attempt to force a 12-year-old girl to hand over the pony she was given for Christmas.

Becky Murray, 12, spent more than a year mucking out at a nearby farm to convince her mother that she was serious about wanting a pony. Teresa Murray bought her a six-year-old bay gelding for £600 at an auction in September, which Becky named Mistral.

However, Harold Restall, 58, the owner of a riding centre near Becky's home at Audenshaw, Greater Manchester, says Mistral is a Cob pony named Mikey stolen from him on the day of the auction. Mrs Murray has refused to return the pony, so Mr Restall is taking the case to Tameside County Court in February.

Yesterday Mrs Murray said: "I bought Mistral in good faith and Becky was delighted to get her. Now this thing has knocked the sparkle right out of her Christmas."

Mikey, which was used to pull traps and wedding carriages, was stolen from a field next to Mr Restall's riding centre in Radcliffe, near Bury. Mrs Murray bought Mistral at an auction in Chelford, Cheshire, on the day of the theft from a young girl who was with two adults and three smaller children.

Mr Restall, whose legal bill could be £2,000, said: "It's not the money that concerns me, it is the principle that my property should be returned."

All change on line that took the strine

RESIDENTS and visitors arriving at Covent Garden in London will no longer find themselves being welcomed by a woman with an Australian accent (Jonathan Prynn writes).

The recorded announcement in the lift at the Tube station has puzzled many travellers as they emerge near the spot where Professor Higgins despaired of Eliza Doolittle's cockney accent in *Pygmalion*. In pure "strine" tones, an Australian woman's voice begins: "Welcome to Cahvent Gard'n station. Please take care of yuh valuables." She then gives directions to the major attractions. Dick Ensor, vice-chairman of the Covent Garden Community Association, said the voice, used since the spring, had been questioned at a meeting with London Underground.

A Tube spokeswoman said the message was being changed to include more information, not because of the accent. She added: "A contractor doing lift work had an Australian woman in their employ and we were happy for her to be the voice. We do not agree that all announcements should be in middle-class, standard English accents.

"We do have a certain amount of ethnic representation in our workforce."

Astronaut's heels may hold clue to osteoporosis

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS are waiting for a German astronaut to return from space with clues to the problem of osteoporosis.

For the past three months Thomas Reiter has had his heel tapped by a device designed to simulate walking. In each ten-minute session it is tapped 500 times on a spring-loaded exercise machine designed by researchers at Bath University.

The machine is the brainchild of Allen Goodship and Paul Dieppe, professors at Bristol University, who believe the regular impact of the heel on a pavement is the missing ingredient in space exercise regimes. Astronauts can tone muscles by daily exercise on a bicycle or rowing machine but there has been no equivalent for the bones.

In space, they tend to lose mass in a process similar to osteoporosis. Astronauts can lose 10 per cent of bone mass during a lengthy mission, as bone responds to the forces on it. When these are low, in the weightlessness of space, it tends to wither away.

Professor Goodship measured the astronaut's bone density at Star City, near Moscow, before lift-off. During the mission his bones are also being routinely measured by ultra-sound scanners. When he returns to earth in a few weeks, Professor Goodship hopes to examine the astronaut's bones again.

Only one leg has been subjected to the heel-tap routine, and its bone mass will be compared with the other leg.

I'M A LOYAL MONARCHIST SAYS AUSTRALIAN PM



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Salford plans to transform its industrial past into monument to a working-class hero

Lowry's forgotten works to emerge in £75m tribute

By Bill Frost

ALMOST two decades after the death of L.S. Lowry, the world's largest collection of his paintings and sketches is at last to be given pride of place by the city he immortalised in his work.

Salford's most famous son will be celebrated in a £75 million arts centre bearing his name. The centrepiece of the project will be a purpose-built gallery for more than 300 of his depictions of working-class life in the North West.

Salford Art Gallery, which owns the collection, has had to keep dozens of sketches and paintings in a cramped basement. Financial constraints and shortage of space prevented the display of any more than half the paintings. In addition, no catalogue of his work exists and an archive of tape-recordings, photographs and letters documenting the artist's life languishes in a cupboard.

This "parlous state of affairs", as Lowry's friends and life-long collectors describe it, will be rectified by the project to transform Salford Quays, an area that once bustled with the industrial scenes that were the artist's inspiration.

As the development plans took shape last year, Mike Leber, senior curator at Salford Art Gallery, which bought its first Lowry in 1936, said the new centre "could not be built soon enough". He added: "Salford has been in an embarrassing situation for years in that it owns a collection of national importance, but has had other spending priorities."

Mr Leber said the Victorian art gallery was not appropriate to house a national collection in perpetuity. "It is difficult to control heating and lighting. Several pictures have been on display for 40 years and we cannot show as many as we would like. Access to our Lowry archive is virtually zero because we have no space and too few staff."



Lowry: his paintings are kept in a basement

A substantial injection of National Lottery cash is expected to be announced within weeks to allow building work to start at Salford Quays. The centre, and other developments taking the total investment to £180 million, is said to be Britain's first purpose-built development to combine performing and visual arts. In addition to the gallery for 350 Lowry works and another for touring exhibitions, it includes a fixed-seat theatre for 1,650 and a 400-seat flexible theatre, a "hands-on" children's gallery and a national virtual reality centre to provide training for industry.

The Millennium Commission has already approved the Lowry Centre scheme, and planners are now expecting the endorsement of the Arts Council and National Heritage Memorial Fund.

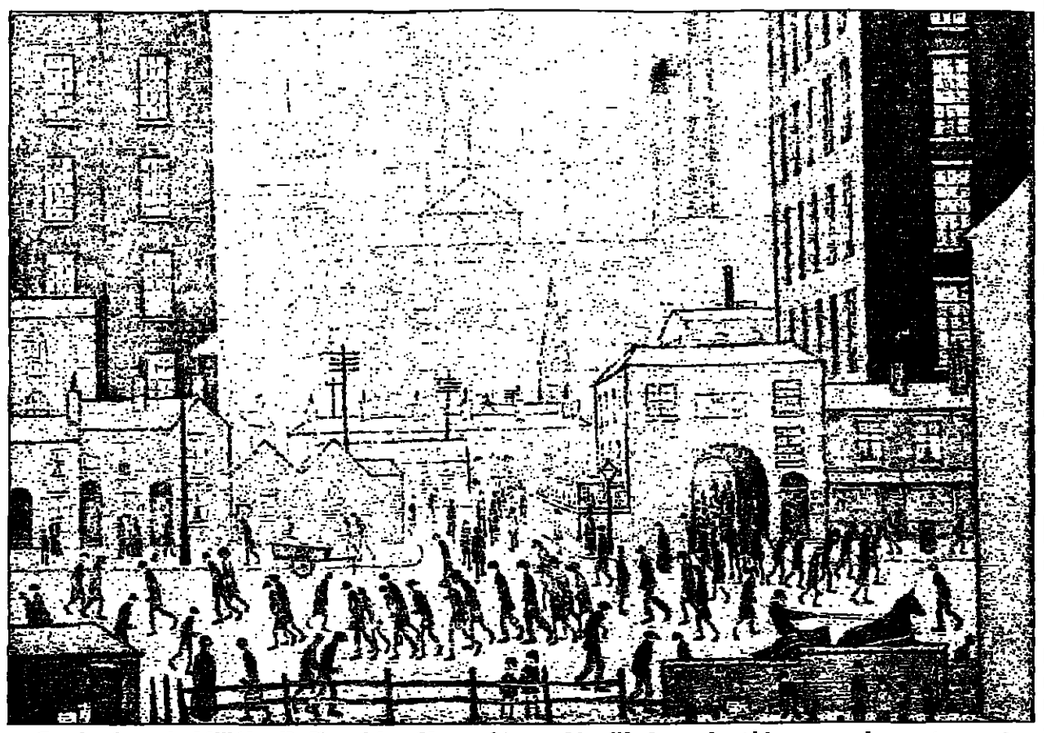
Bill Hinds, leader of Salford City Council, which has led the project, said: "The waterfront at Salford is a step away from the transformation which cities such as Baltimore, Boston and Toronto have realised. I believe the arts should be accessible to all and that the centre will transform the culture and the economy of the North West."

The centre's backers are hoping for £45 million from the National Lottery. It is hoped the complex will generate £10 million from an expected 700,000 visitors each year, and provide an extra £4 million a year in local income.

Supporters of the project include the Oscar-winning actor Ben Kingsley, who began his career in Salford. "There is a great deal of talent in the North West of England and the Lowry Centre will be the focus for their aspirations," he said. "As a former Salford Player, I can imagine the excitement and enthusiasm that this project will bring."

Albert Finney, another of the city's famous sons, said: "This imaginative project has my wholehearted support. Not just the city of Salford and the great North West, but the arts in Britain generally will benefit from this terrific concept."

The actor Robert Powell, another supporter of the project, said: "The Lowry Centre is a remarkable idea in a remarkable setting. Salford never fails to amaze: first the canal, then the quays, now this superb project which will inspire generations to come."



Coming from the Mill (detail). Chronicler of Lancashire working life, Lowry kept his own employment a secret

Vision woven from a spinning mill

FOR much of his life Laurence Stephen Lowry feared that he would be regarded as an amateur if his public discovered that he worked as chief clerk to a rent collection company (Bill Frost writes). He sought recognition as a serious artist and not until his death in 1976 were his admirers told of his nine-to-five job in Manchester.

While taking evening classes at the Salford School of Art in 1915, he "discovered" the industrial backdrop which was to provide him with his sometimes bleak but always poetic inspiration. Sir John Rothenstein, author of *Modern English Painters*, wrote: "One day he missed a train at Pendlebury and, as he left the station, he saw the Acme Spinning Mill ... he experienced an earthly equivalent of some transcendental revelation."

Lowry cultivated the role of eccentric, wearing the same mackintosh and cap in the 1970s that he wore for his celebrated self-portrait in 1925. In the small front room of his Salford home were clocks showing different times. "I don't want to know the real time," he explained. His taste in art was catholic. The Impressionists exerted a strong lure and he amassed a collection of Pre-Raphaelite drawings by Rossetti.

According to some critics, the greatest hindrance he faced was public fondness for his work. Shelley Rohde, author of *A Private View: L.S. Lowry*, said: "He is far too popular for the art establishment. They should have put up a purpose-built gallery when he died."

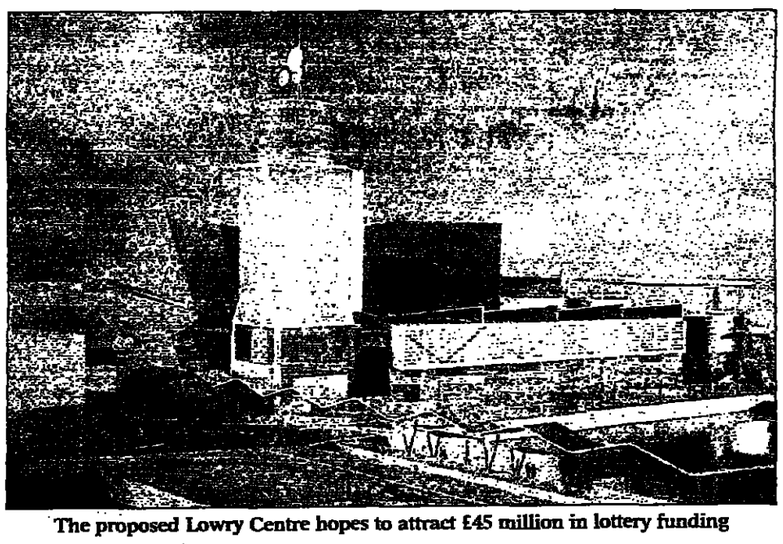
IN THE TIMES



Win a jumbo bottle of champagne with the jumbo crossword

Restaurants of the year Jonathan Meades selects the finest

Bloomsbury books offer Buy one Bloomsbury Classic, get another one free



The proposed Lowry Centre hopes to attract £45 million in lottery funding

ENJOY SPECIAL 3-DAY, 5-DAY AND 10-DAY FARES TO FRANCE WITH STENA LINE

France from £39

The Times, in association with Stena Line, formerly Stena Sealink, is offering unbeatable rates for motorists on short breaks to France. To take advantage of these special bargains on three of Stena Line's cross-Channel routes, Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe and Southampton-Cherbourg, collect three tokens. Full details appeared in *The Times* yesterday and will appear again in *The Sunday Times*. Prices start at £39 for a car and up to five passengers. Foot passengers can travel for only £5 return. For a longer break you can take advantage of a ten-day return from only £69 for a car and two people.

For an extra £15, you can take the high-speed Stena Lynx catamaran from Dover, crossing to Calais in just 45 minutes (from February 13, 1996) or the Stena Lynx from Newhaven to Dieppe crossing in just two hours and 15 minutes (starting February 29, 1996).

Readers are also offered Ski-Link, a special package for ski-drivers for a car and two people, starting at £125 for up to ten days and £135 for up to 17 days. Additional passengers are £27 and £32 (children £15 and £16) respectively. It saves you 10% on normal prices and includes AA Five Star Roadside Assistance Cover and Home and Overseas Personal Insurance with winter sports cover.

There are also special deals on overnight stays at Campanile hotels in France from as little as £28 per night and the chance to enjoy savings of 10% on your duty free shopping.

THE TIMES Stena Line TOKEN 3

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5-day return by Superferry – car and up to 5 people (inc driver)	£49
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Additional passengers 3, 5 & 10-day returns	£5
Superferry foot passengers 3 & 5-day returns	£5
Stena Lynx foot passengers 3 & 5-day returns	£10
Superferry foot passengers 10-day return	£10
Stena Lynx foot passengers 10-day return	£15
Saturday departure supplement (Dover/Newhaven) 3 & 5-day	£10
Saturday departure supplement (Dover/Newhaven) 10-day	£15
Friday departure supplement (from Southampton) 3 & 5-day	£10
Friday departure supplement (from Southampton) 10-day	£15
By Stena Lynx supplement (from Dover/Newhaven) 3, 5 & 10	£15

Cabin or reclchair accommodation is compulsory on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight crossings: 2-berth inside-cabin £25, reclining seat £5

Vermeer exhibition beats US shutdown

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

WASHINGTON'S museums and federal offices remained silent yesterday as the partial government shutdown stretched into a record twelfth day. But there was one exception: using private funds, the Smithsonian Institution reopened the National Gallery of Art's unprecedented Johannes Vermeer exhibition.

The exhibition is the first devoted to the 17th-century Dutch master and boasts 21 of his 35 known paintings, whose owners include the Queen. "Given the uncertainty of when it [the shutdown] will end, we decided to do what we could to make this once-in-a-lifetime event accessible to people from all over the world," Earl Powell, the gallery's director, said.

Tens of thousands of people have bought advance tickets and have planned special visits to Washington. The exhibition opened to huge acclaim on November 12 but was almost immediately closed by the first six-day government shutdown. It briefly reopened, but was closed again when the present shutdown began on December 16. It must close for good on February 11 ready for shipment to The Hague.

The gallery has taken $30,000 (£20,000) from its Fund for International Exchange to pay for 25 guards for a week. It hopes the shutdown will end by then, an optimism that could prove unfounded. Talks to resolve America's budget crisis resumed yesterday but with little chance of a quick breakthrough.

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Schools threatened by violence turn to police for advice

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SECONDARY schools should seek police advice on potential flashpoints in their local community and assess security arrangements to protect staff and students, head teachers will be told next month.

The Secondary Heads Association has hired a former assistant chief constable to supply schools with security advice after a series of violent incidents, including the murder of Philip Lawrence outside a northwest London school.

Ken Cooper, a security consultant and retired member of the Northamptonshire force, will advise all schools to work with police to produce a "threat assessment" database, covering problems in the community that could affect the school, as well as identifying internal security issues.

The association is responding to widespread concern over school security, fuelled by highly publicised incidents such as the fatal stabbing of 12-year-old Nikki Conroy at a Cleveland school last year. Mr Cooper's work was commissioned before the death of Mr Lawrence earlier this month.

Mr Cooper, whose booklet on the subject will be sent to more than 4,000 secondary schools, said: "Every school has got to have a security policy, but it is not just a matter of putting up iron bars. One of the important things, in view of the Philip Lawrence tragedy, is not necessarily security inside the school. The school is affected by the community, and schools should have a database of information with a security threat assessment. If there is gang warfare in the community, it should become part of the school database. By working with the police you should be able to identify these potential threats."

Mr Cooper added: "Everyone short-cuts security because it is the easiest burden to reduce at the time, but unfortunately that can have serious repercussions. The value of damage to schools is quite immense. This relates to the quality of life for our children but there is also a real commercial issue here."

The association is also jointly funding a video, called *What Price Security*, which will be available at a discount rate to schools from the end of next month.

The video features Beanfield School in Corby, Northamptonshire, which has closed circuit television cameras trained on its entrances. Leslie Ryder, of the video production company Focus in Education, said: "It looks at the problems of an open access site with playing fields and footpaths and raises the issue of whether it should be made like a stockade when truly it belongs to the community."

John Sutton, the general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said: "A lot of schools could do more to pay attention to their security. But we do not want schools to be seen as fortresses, they must strike a balance between the two."

Former pupils hit teachers at party

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THREE teachers and a schoolgirl needed hospital treatment after being attacked by former pupils at the end of a school party.

Tony Brookes, 47, the headmaster of Thorne Grammar School near Doncaster, said the incident was terrifying. Ten of his staff were driven into the hall by punches and kicks and had to lock the doors for protection.

The police were called, but the five youths involved, aged 19 and 20, had vanished before they arrived. A full criminal investigation has begun. Police are interviewing staff and the dozens of pupils who attended the evening party last Thursday.

At the party itself, for 15 and 16-year-olds, there was no trouble with the pupils, and Mr Brookes said it had gone very well. But as the pupils left, a group of youths who had gathered outside began rattling doors and shouting.

Mr Brookes said: "Most of the pupils had left, but the youths started shouting abuse. Two of them came storming in." Mike Sykes, 48, a senior teacher, was punched twice in the face and knocked down.

Mr Brookes said: "He started crawling to the school hall and we came to help him. I was punched in the face, and the other staff were stormed by all five of the youths, who started throwing punches. A female staff member was roughed up and had her coat ripped and a male teacher had his shirt torn off his back.

"We managed to get back into the hall and locked the doors. When police arrived, the gang ran off. No one was seriously injured but we did have grazes and bruises. Afterwards, we discovered that these people had rammed a girl pupil against a wall and bruised her ribs, so we took her to casualty as well.

"I always stand outside these Christmas parties to make sure the children leave safely and get home but I have never experienced anything like this in the nine years I have been head."

Law watchdog in the dock

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW complaints system that would allow clients to challenge lawyers' fees and increase maximum compensation from £1,000 to £5,000 is called for by the Consumers' Association today.

The association says the Solicitors Complaints Bureau should be more independent and allow a wider range of complaints. It calls for reforms to make the bureau more effective, more easily accessed, fairer and swifter than the present body, which is funded and staffed by the Law Society.

The association makes its proposals in its response to the Law Society's own consultation paper, which recommends scrapping the much-criticised bureau and setting up a new complaints system. "Clients who have lost money as a result of a solicitor's negligence have little effective redress," the association said.

There is widespread discontent with the present £9 million-a-year bureau, both among solicitors, who perceive it as too interventionist and expensive to maintain, and among the public, which sees it as slow and ineffective.

Martin Mears, president of the Law Society, voiced the concerns of many solicitors when he pledged in his election manifesto this summer to overhaul the bureau and bring it firmly under Law Society control.



JAMES MORGAN

Piano practice: Felix Gummer, aged 14, taking the grand approach to studying music at Tonbridge School

Keyboards silence piano in fight for keys to the kingdom of music

BY KATHARINE ROAD

TRADITIONAL piano playing in schools is falling drastically as pupils opt for electric keyboards in music lessons. It is feared that the choice could undermine children's ability to play, or appreciate, classical piano music.

Christopher Elton, head of piano at the Royal Academy of Music, says: "Keyboards cramp pupils' musical horizons. Mozart and Beethoven cannot be appreciated on a keyboard, and it becomes impossible to develop the touch and technique to play them."

Research shows that peer pressure is forcing many children to abandon the piano, with boys especially likely to choose more "macho" instruments, especially those favoured in the electronic sounds of pop musicians such as the Pet Shop Boys. Dr Michael Boulton and Susan O'Neill at Keele University asked 153 children to choose which of six instruments they might like to play. There was agreement that boys generally should not play the piano. "It is not considered macho," they reported. "Boys more than girls consider the piano to be difficult."

The decline in popularity of the piano with younger generations is shown in a survey published earlier this year by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. While 12 per cent of all adults professed to playing the piano, only 8 per cent of children played. By contrast, the electronic keyboard was the second most popular instrument among children, after the recorder.

Part of the reason is cost. At the top end of the market, a new Bechstein grand piano could cost £34,000. A second-hand upright piano usually costs £1,000 but in a sale one might be found for £500. Portable electronic keyboards start at less than £150 and digital pianos at £1,300.

George Clayton, managing director of the musical instrument specialists, Chappel of Bond Street, in London, said: "Portable keyboard sales are way up on last year over the Christmas period and this has been a definite trend over the past few years.

"People do not tend to buy pianos at Christmas — they usually wait for the sales — but sales of portable keyboards are much higher overall because they are generally much cheaper."

In schools, the added attraction of the compactness of the keyboard provides the opportunity for group teaching, which relieves the cost of private tuition on the classical piano. But Mr Wright, head of piano at Ampleforth College, is strongly against the use of electric keyboards for music teaching. He said: "There is a great danger that starting pupils off on the small keys and limited touch of the keyboard makes it very difficult to switch to a piano and be able to produce a reasonable sound. We have keyboards here to help with A-level music harmony lessons and for occasional practice, but I would not dream of teaching on them."

Roger Durston, chairman of the UK Music Education Council, said that a study of the instruments played in specialist music school entrance examinations showed that "we are definitely seeing a drop in the number of children taking up the piano among new students".

Sales figures compiled by the Music Industry Association confirm the rise of the keyboard and the demise of the traditional piano over the period from 1988 to 1994.

During that time, the sales of portable keyboards, parts and accessories have risen by 3.04 per cent, compared with a drop of acoustic pianos by a significant 7.14 per cent. These shifts in sales are mirrored by the changes in relative cost.

The keyboard may have advantages other than cost. Hilary Davan Wetton, Director of Music at Tonbridge School in Kent, said: "The keyboard is no substitute for a piano, but it is a very good doorway to the fun of music in its own right."



Switched on: Pet Shop Boys. Children feel the electronic keyboard is "macho"

Two men held over attack on widow

Two men have been arrested in connection with the mugging of an elderly woman in the early hours of Boxing Day.

The men, in their late teens and early 20s, are being questioned about the attack on Evelyn Stanford, 83, who was found unconscious and bleeding heavily by the roadside half a mile from her home in Wolverhampton. Mrs Stanford, a widow who lives alone, is in intensive care.

A motorist, who had seen her minutes earlier carrying a bag, found her with the bag missing. It is not clear why she was in the street at 12.30am.

Teenager dies after stabbing

Two young men were arrested in the hunt for the killer of Lee Marshall, 19, of Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, who died in hospital of stab wounds. Meanwhile, police in the city were examining closed circuit television footage of the Bigg Market, where a man was shot dead on Christmas Eve.

Murder remand

Peter Moore, 49, the owner of a string of cinemas in North Wales, was remanded in custody by magistrates in Colwyn Bay, charged with the murder of an unidentified man in September. He already faces two other murder charges.

Hostage charge

Garry Lynch, 33, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, who is charged with unlawfully imprisoning a police officer in his own station on Christmas Eve and possessing a knife, was remanded in custody by Oxford magistrates.

Trains disrupted

Train services to and from the West Country were disrupted yesterday after a coach leaving Temple Meads station in Bristol was derailed. The third carriage of the Leeds to Plymouth train remained upright and nobody was injured.

Well read

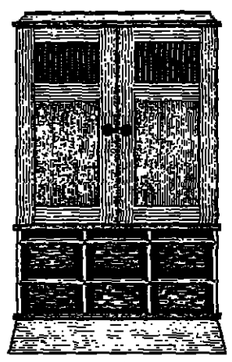
A book has been returned 63 years late to a library in north London. Patrick Lovelock, 70, found the *Manual of Physical Training 1931* while redecorating. The senior librarian was so glad to see it he waived the £350 fine.

Cold night out

Paddy Faherty, 54, of Claddagh, Co Galway, was in hospital after spending a night at sea in his currach, a traditional open boat. A search was started when he failed to return on Boxing Day, but he turned up the next morning.

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Twin ports seek ship for historic collection

BY IAN MURRAY

PORTSMOUTH and Gosport are trying to buy a modern warship to complete a comprehensive display of Britain's maritime history.

They already have an enviable collection, including the *Mary Rose*, the only warship surviving from Tudor times, and Nelson's flagship, the *Victory*. The last century is represented by the *Warrior*. The ports now wants to display a 20th-century vessel as a tribute to those who sailed from Portsmouth to fight in recent wars.

The idea came up over five years ago and was backed by Gosport council, then Tory-controlled. At that stage, the Rothesay-class frigate *Plymouth*, which had been prominent in the Falklands War, was available. However, the Liberal Democrats then won control of the council after an election campaign in which they argued that funds should be spent on council services rather than redundant warships. The Warship Preservation Trust found a mooring for the *Plymouth* at Birkenhead.

The mood at Gosport has changed, now that a bid with Portsmouth to the Millennium Fund has won £40 million for the harbour to be revamped, and the two towns agree that they want a 20th-century warship for their collection. A berth in Gosport could be included in the new harbour, with the ship visible from Portsmouth as part of an historic backdrop including the other ships. A suitable ship is being sought, the *Plymouth* remaining a prime target.

Dog saves dog in underground trap

BY LEYLA LINTON

A DOG wearing an electronic tracking device helped to rescue a terrier trapped in an underground maze of pipes for more than 24 hours.

Rosie, a fell terrier, had been out walking with Margaret Everett after Christmas dinner and vanished into a 9in-wide drainage pipe while pursuing a rabbit or fox. Mrs Everett and six relatives spent nearly an hour calling and whistling in vain. They returned to the spot at Colchester, Essex, seven times to look for the dog.

Finally, the owner telephoned the Fell and Moorland Working Terriers Club, which specialises in rescuing trapped dogs. Dave Smith, the local representative, and fellow member Dale Bullen searched for Rosie on Boxing Day. They fitted an electronic signal to the collar of Vic, Mr Bullen's Lakeland terrier, before sending it into the drainage network. After about 30 minutes of tracking the dog's progress, they realised Vic had come to a halt 400 yards from the entrance to the drain. They spent nearly three hours digging 6½ft down into the frozen earth of a field until they uncovered the pipe, which they split with an axe. Seconds later, both dogs scampered into the daylight.

Rosie is believed to have become trapped in a section that was too narrow to turn round in. Mrs Everett said: "I was convinced she had gone for ever. We could not enjoy the rest of Christmas Day."

Mr Smith usually uses the location device to track dogs underground when hunting foxes. Mr Bullen said: "Vic is trained to follow a scent until he finds the source. Then he simply lies down and waits for us to trace him. Rosie barked with joy when she saw her owner."



Margaret Everett with Rosie, left, and Vic the rescuer

Vicar casts disciples as God intended

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A COUNTRY vicar has set his flock talking with his set of explicit nude sculptures of Christ's disciples on show outside the vicarage.

The Rev Toddy Hoare, 47, a former art student and military padre, said: "People are beginning to spark a bit now they've seen them, but most of the comments have been favourable and nobody has suggested to me I've gone too far.

"We are all naked before God. The Gospels tell us that Peter was naked when he fished. God sees us as we are. No amount of dressing up will cover that. Some vicars write commentaries on the Bible but I've made a commentary in concrete."

Mr Hoare, who ministers to eight parishes near Thirsk in North Yorkshire, spent a three-month sabbatical creating the eight 6ft by 3ft panels in his studio adjoining the vicarage at Knayton.

One parishioner, Gill Mayne of nearby Felixkirk, said: "What these represent is beyond me. I don't think there is any necessity for exploiting nudity and especially full frontals. I am mystified why they have been done. They certainly wouldn't be hanging in my church."

Mr Hoare hopes to find a benefactor to enable him to cast the sculptures in bronze. Until then he plans to display the panels in the 17th-century church of Michael and All Angels at Cowesby, "where visitors can look, sit, think and meditate in a quiet place of worship".

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Novice spends $7m to challenge Dole in party race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

STEVE FORBES, the publishing tycoon, has climbed into second place behind Robert Dole in the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

Since entering the fray in late September, the 48-year-old political novice has poured more than $7 million (£4.5 million) of his personal fortune into saturation advertising and is the only one of the nine Republican candidates whose support is noticeably increasing.

The latest poll in New Hampshire, site of the first primary on February 20, gives Mr Dole 35 per cent and Mr Forbes 16, with none of the other seven candidates in double figures.

He is untelegenic, a low-key speaker and a purveyor of distinctly unorthodox ideas, but recent polls put him narrowly ahead of the pack in Iowa, which holds the first significant caucuses on February 12. He is also doing well in Delaware and Arizona which have very early contests.

This is galling for Phil Gramm, the Texas senator who has spent roughly $15 million to date but remains in single figures. It is infuriating for Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor whose support barely exceeds most polls' margin of error despite more than a year of non-stop campaigning. Mr Dole is the only candidate who views Mr Forbes's rise with equanimity. He shares the universal view that his closest rival could never win the nomination, but is preventing Mr Gramm or Mr Alexander from emerging as the clear alternative to Mr Dole, thus tightening the Senate leader's hold on the nomination.

Mr Forbes is the grandson of a Scottish immigrant and collects the original papers of Winston Churchill as a hobby. He inherited a business publishing empire and a keen sense of fun from his flamboyant father Malcolm, who died in 1990 six months after throwing a $2 million 70th birthday party in Morocco.



Forbes: ready to spend at least $25 million

Mr Forbes has already spent more on advertisements in Iowa than any other presidential candidate ever, and more than all 1988's 13 candidates combined, but insists that the blitz is working only because his message resonates. While his Republican rivals all talk of the need to cut spending and eliminate the deficit, Mr Forbes preaches the old supply-side optimism of the Reagan era.

He would scrap the present tax code entirely, replacing it with a single 17 per cent "flat tax" payable by all (this would personally save him an estimated $128,000 a year). He would tie the dollar to the gold standard, arguing that inflation and interest rates would tumble. He wants to devolve responsibility not just to the states, as Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, aims to do, but wherever possible to the individual.

Mr Forbes believes that Washington's power and corruption derives from its ability to manipulate the complex tax code. "It's time to remove the dead weight of Washington and let the American economy run free," he says.

Friends say Mr Forbes is having the time of his life and is prepared to spend at least $25 million on his campaign.



South Korean stock dealers applaud amid fluttering buying and selling order sheets during the ceremonial closing of another year's trading at the Stock Exchange Market building in the capital, Seoul, yesterday

Chinese choose favoured tycoons

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA will name today the 150 men and women it has selected to transform the British colony of Hong Kong into a Chinese Special Administrative Region. News reports indicated last night that those chosen, while representing the colony's business elite, will exclude members of its largest political party.

The preparatory committee will establish the government which will take over at midnight on June 30, 1997, and will also decide how to select the first chief executive to take over from Chris Patten, the British Governor, and also a provisional legislature to assume power from the elected political body China has said it will ignore.

Among the names, a who's who of rich Hong Kong business tycoons, are property magnates Li Ka-shing, and Lee Shau-kee, who are regarded as the territory's wealthiest men, according to Chinese sources. The majority — 94 members — were from Hong Kong, in keeping with Peking's dictum of "Hong Kong people ruling Hong Kong".

Up to 34 of that list were business representatives. Absent, however, are representatives of British-oriented firms such as Swire Pacific and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, and members of the Democratic Party, who despite success in September's legislative polls are regarded by Peking as subversives.

Fourteen members of the colony's 60-member Legislative Council were named, according to the list carried by the well-informed Chinese-language newspaper *Ming Pao*, but these did not include members of the Democratic Party. Former civil servants and representatives from academic, religious and rural organisations are in the list.

Leading article, page 15

Hooligan fans lower Giants

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

HOOLIGANISM, of a sort, has reached American football. Fans at a New York Giants game, despairing of their team's poor performance, started a snowball fight. Fifteen people were arrested, 175 were ejected from the stadium, and national shame ensued.

Owing to the hard texture of the snow, the initially playful fight proved more dangerous than the action on the pitch between the Giants and the San Diego Chargers. Fifteen people were injured, a television cameraman took a glancing blow to the arm, and the referees were pelted repeatedly. One ran for cover.

Every time the Chargers looked as though they might score, the air became thick with white bombs, hurled from the Giants' end. One or two Chargers fans were tempted to respond with snowballs of their own. Sid Brooks, a member of the Chargers' management, fell to the ground unconscious when a snowball hit him on the head.

Officials of the National Football League reacted swiftly. Seventy-five season ticket holders have had their passes confiscated after being identified as culprits and a reward of $1,000 (£653) has been offered for information leading to the arrest of one thrower, photographed mid-toss. Those ejected from the stadium included a lawyer, a schoolmaster, a retired senior police officer and a stockbroker. Confiscation of a season ticket is a harsh sanction, as there is a long waiting list for membership.

Gun-toting grandmother wages battle for right to bear arms

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

BEFORE breakfast Marion Hammer decides whether to pack a slender Colt .38 Detective Special or a chunkier Beretta 9mm. The routine has changed little now she is at the helm of one of America's most powerful lobbies.

"What gun I carry really depends on what I'm wearing and what purse I'm carrying that day," says Mrs Hammer, the first female president of the National Rifle Association in its 125-year history. At 56, the chain-smoking grandmother is a far cry from the liberal stereotype of an NRA member.

The death of Thomas Washington, her moderate predecessor who sought to muffle the 3.3 million-strong organisation's controversial anti-gun control message, has brought Mrs Hammer to join Tanya Metaska — chief NRA lobbyist since 1994 — in building the most determined and uncompromising defence of the Second Amendment right to bear arms.

"Some people may say I'm a woman in a man's job, but they are wrong," said Mrs Hammer at NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia. "I am a woman in a patriot's job, freedom is gender-neutral."

Just 4ft 11in, Mrs Hammer first shot a gun on her grandfather's farm when five and became an activist after the Gun Control Act was signed in 1968, building a reputation among opponents as "Florida's Number One Gun Nut".

Ten years ago, she was followed into a Florida car park late one night by six youths who threatened to rape and kill her. "They were carrying bottles which they were going to use on me, so I reached into my purse and pulled out my gun. One screamed 'the bitch has a gun' and they just fled."



Hammer: arrived as NRA faces crossroads

She has arrived in Fairfax at an important time for the NRA, which suffered withering attacks and falling support when a membership letter, sent before the Oklahoma City bombing in April, was leaked to the media.

President Clinton seized on its portrayal of federal law enforcement agents as "jack-booted government thugs" as evidence that the organisation fomented the type of hatred that led to the blast, which killed 169 adults and children. Former President George Bush resigned his lifetime NRA membership in disgust.

But by citing the 1993 Waco siege and the siege of a white separatists' Idaho cabin as examples of federal agents running amok, Mrs Hammer and her allies won overwhelming national conference support.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Policemen in cult did the killing

Grenoble: Two French policemen were responsible for the massacre that left 16 members of the Order of the Solar Temple dead in France last week, it emerged yesterday (Adam Sage writes).

The policemen, both members of the cult, shot 14 other cult followers, including three children, before turning the guns on themselves, Jean-François Lorans, the prosecutor here, said. The charred bodies were found in a forest on Saturday, a year after 53 members of the sect died in Switzerland and Canada.

Wei appeal

Peking: China's Higher People's Court is due to hear Wei Jingsheng's appeal against a 14-year jail term for conspiracy today, shortly after a White Paper hailed "great advances in human rights". *(Reuter)*

Koreans jailed

Seoul: A South Korean father and son who owned a department store here which collapsed in June, killing more than 500 people, were jailed for ten and seven years for criminal negligence. *(Reuter)*

Pole to poles

Warsaw: Marek Kaminski, a Polish adventurer, has become the first person to hike to the North and South Poles in the same year. A Norwegian earlier reached both poles, but in different years. *(AP)*

Algiers shoot-out

Algiers: Two policemen, one soldier and two Islamic activists were killed in a shoot-out in Algiers after the militants tried to rob a shop. A policeman and two civilians were injured. *(AFP)*

Chemicals held

Amman: Jordan has seized a large consignment of toxic chemicals and a machine for making missile parts bound for Iraq in violation of United Nations sanctions, its Foreign Ministry said. *(Reuter)*

Peking declares war on porn

BY JAMES PRINGLE

THEY are thrust at you in central Peking. CD-Roms featuring lurid pictures of scantily dressed women and bearing the words, still rather shocking to see in Communist China, in explicit Anglo-Saxon terms.

Nowadays, pornography is freely available in the Chinese capital. But all that may soon change, if the Chinese Customs Department is to be believed. Yesterday, officials were reported to have pledged to intensify efforts to stop the influx of "moral toxin". From January until last month, the *China Daily* reported, 560,000 items were seized, up 69 per cent over the 1994 period. In Canton, 1,187 attempts at smuggling high-tech porn were thwarted.

"This dirty media, if not forcibly curbed, could pollute the social environment, poison youngsters and damage social stability by inducing more crimes," a customs report said.

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Easy riders join rush west to high-speed Montana

Drivers around the US are being drawn to the 'Montanabahns', where the scrapping of the speed limit has raised safety fears. ***Quentin Letts*** *follows in their slipstream*

Montana, the fourth biggest state and one of America's emptiest, has scrapped speed limits on its main roads. Not everyone is happy. "Made us the joke of the nation," Darrick Wakefield, a Highway Patrol Officer, said in his Ford Crown Victoria patrol car. As he spoke, a Chevrolet Camaro screamed past at 95mph, its speed flashing up on the Ford's traffic monitor. Regret twitched under Mr Wakefield's nostrils.

The end of the federal 55mph limit has not only quickened paces and reduced journey times across Montana's vast wilderness, but has also brought death, impudence and an influx of out-of-state speed maniacs. When the federal limit disappeared on December 8, most state governments set new ones, but in Montana, in daytime, there is now no official maximum speed for cars and vans.

The police saw an immediate effect: three fatal crashes around the state's main town of Billings (population 80,000) and one serious injury. Enthusiasts on the East Coast meanwhile wrote to ask if they could bring their sports cars to Montana for a rally down the interstate. A Porsche driver out west was said to be boasting that he drove the 350 miles from Missoula to Billings in less than three hours.

In homage to Germany's limit-free motorways, adrenalin junkies are talking of the "Montanabahn". Quite a bahn it is, too. From the Bitterroots Mountains near Idaho to the Custer National Forest on the Dakota borders, Port of Wild Horse in the north to Clark Canyon in the south, deserted roads stretch to the horizon, boarded by white peaks and foaming creeks. If ever a land was made for full throttle, this is it.

Montana is attracting easy riders from other states who rev up the moment they cross the state line. On Interstate 90, I was overtaken by two Ford Mustangs racing each other, their huge engines quivering with the effort of hitting a three-figure speed.

The lack of a limit matches Montana's libertarian instincts. Since the days of the 19th century outlaws "Rattlesnake" Jack and "Liver Eating" Johnson (he liked Sioux offal), the state has had its share of wild folk.

To the north of Billings there now live the "Freedom men of Montana", an anti-federal militia whose members refuse to pay taxes or carry driving licences. At Desperados country music bar on the outskirts of Billings, a ranch hand called Jo said it was "time to chuck ass on the highway!"



Teenage drivers whooped at the dismantling of the roadside speed signs, but one of those early fatalities resulted from a schoolgirl driving past a Stop sign at high speed. Mr Wakefield added that speed offences used to allow the police to pull over shifty-looking motorists. He once apprehended a gang of armed robbers that way. "Now we're walking on eggshells when we stop people," he said. "People in Montana think they have more rights than elsewhere."

"Shorty" Spang, a Ford sales manager in Billings, said that he hoped to sell "a few more Mustang GTs" but at a coffee shop in Laurel, four farmers expressed safety fears. "Modern cars are not strong enough for 90 miles an hour," said Bob Miller from under a broad cowboy hat.

Wild animals are a road hazard in the American West. Deer, elk, moose and wild horses wander freely. If struck by a lorry only the animals are killed, but hit one in a car at 100mph and you will need more than a new windscreen.

Slow-moving vehicles are also a danger. Lorries must still observe the old speed limit, and elderly drivers in their low-slung Lincolns present obstacles for fast vehicles.

The police have not given up entirely. Reckless driving is still illegal, and that can include exceeding your car's capabilities. Mr Wakefield wrote out a $70 (£44) ticket to Mikel Tulp, a student driving at 96mph in a small Hyundai. A bigger car would probably not have been stopped. Failure to slow for accidents or blind spots will also lead to tickets.

For all the safety fears, the new speed code has given Montana a certain stylistic dash. It has increased interest in a state wrongly considered dull, and there is something undeniably wonderful about pressing your shoe to the floor and hearing the pistons rattle at 115mph. Montana has discovered the modern equivalent of the "yee-hi!", dust-stirring stagecoach gallop, and it is fun.

Letters, page 15



Quentin Letts takes a break from driving through the wide open spaces in Montana, where he cruised legally in his rented car at 115 mph

Horsepower heaven in Custer country

THE fastest vehicle on offer at the Billings airport car hire desk was a Mercury Mystique, a moderately brisk sedan whose British equivalent might be a Ford Mondeo or a Peugeot 405 (Quentin Letts writes). The assistant said that everything else had been rented out — perhaps I was not the only one visiting Montana to speed.

The Mercury's 16-valve, two-litre engine felt comfortable at 90mph, but with some coaxing it produced a top speed of 115mph on a long, straight, gloriously empty stretch of road west of Little Big Horn, the site of Custer's last stand.

Montana's roads generally have far less traffic than the German autobahn or French A and B roads. However, Highway Patrol officers can still issue a ticket to those driving dangerously or with undue regard for fellow motorists. West of Billings are lands once known by Indians as "sacred hunting grounds". Some police still see them in much the same way.

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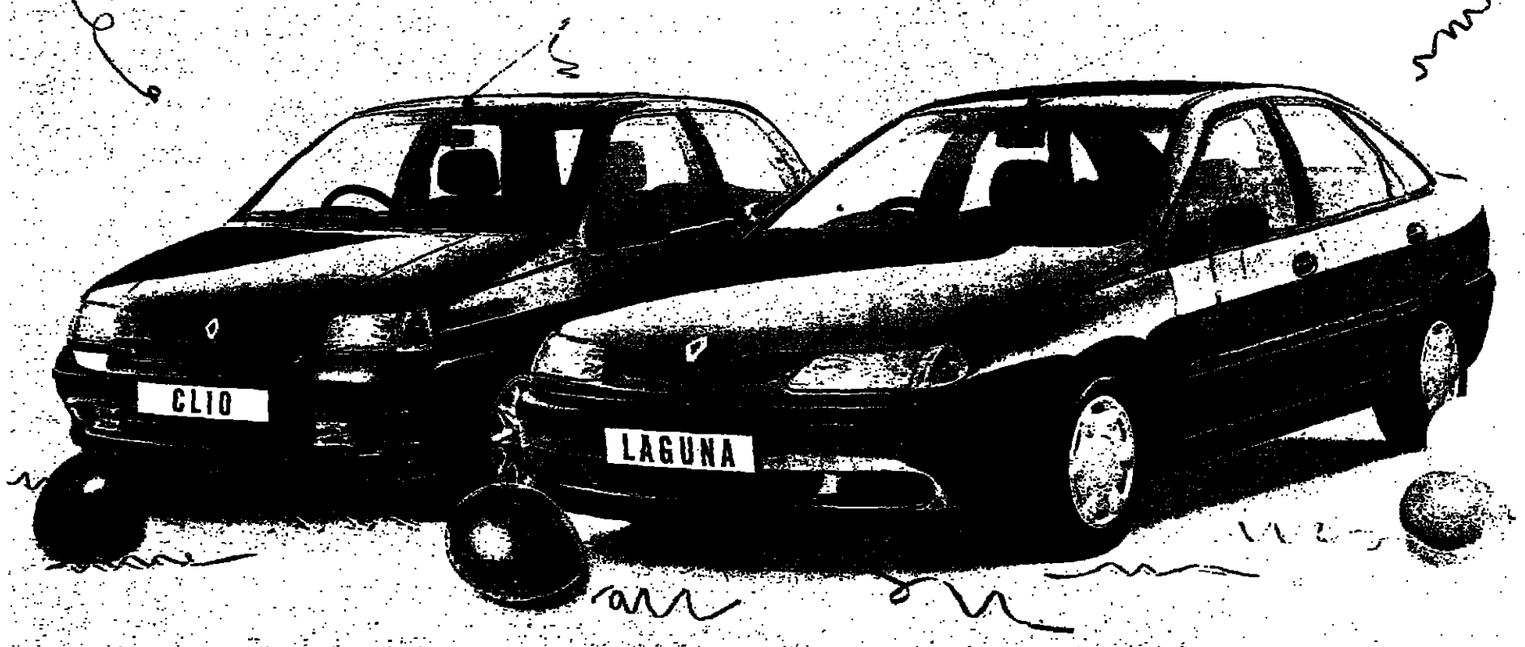
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West Bank city of Ramallah transferred to Palestinians ahead of schedule

Clinton optimistic as Syrians reopen talks with Israelis

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI and Syrian negotiators yesterday launched a new round of peace talks at a bucolic retreat on Maryland's eastern shore, and American officials were optimistic that the Middle East's most implacable foes could reach an initial peace agreement by mid-spring.

The talks began as Israel transferred control of the Arab city of Ramallah to the Palestinian Authority, completing a redeployment of troops on the West Bank one day ahead of schedule.

The American Administration sees the talks as the start of the final drive towards a comprehensive Middle East peace, and President Clinton said he believed the peace process that began after the Gulf War could be completed in the "fairly near term".

Syria and Israel remain divided on the terms of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, territory it captured in 1967, but Washington has been encouraged by recent private and public statements by Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, and President Assad of Syria.

New York: Yassir Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, has been ordered to give evidence in an American court over the 1985 *Achille Lauro* hijacking. A US travel agency which booked passengers on the ill-fated cruise is suing the PLO for involvement in the hijacking, during which a wheelchair-bound passenger was shot and thrown overboard.

The talks broke off six months ago over Israel's demand to keep an early warning system on the Golan Heights to guard against a surprise Syrian attack. Negotiations reopened yesterday at the Wye Plantation, a stately old southern mansion an hour from Washington. The delegations were led by Uri Savir, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and Walid al-Moualem, Syria's Ambassador to Washington. The talks were guided by Dennis Ross, the State Department's Middle East expert.

The talks will be adjourned tomorrow and resume next week after the negotiators have reported back to their governments. Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, is scheduled to return to the Middle East on January 10.

At the Ramallah hand-over ceremony, Gabi Ophir, the Israeli military commander on the West Bank, wished his Palestinian counterpart success in maintaining security for all residents, including Israelis who live near by.

Ahmed Tibi, an adviser to Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, sought to allay the fears of Israelis that cities such as Ramallah would become bases for terrorist attacks against Jews.

☐ **Editor held:** PLO security forces have arrested Maher al-Alami, an editor at the Palestinian newspaper *al-Quds*, for not printing a report about Mr Arafat on the front page, journalists reported. *(Reuter)*



Palestinian youths in Ramallah wave pistols in the military compound during a brief interval yesterday between departure of Israeli troops and arrival of Palestinian police

Elusive Golan deal is key to wider peace

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ABOUT 1,800 sq km captured by Israel from Syria in 1967 and held during the 1973 Yom Kippur war has become the key to a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

For almost 28 years this strategic settlement, known as the Golan Heights, has been a gigantic watchtower for Israel in the first line of defence against any possible invasion by Syria. As recently as August 1994, Ehud Barak, Israel's then military Chief of Staff, said: "From a military standpoint, the Israeli Defence Forces must retain control of the Golan Heights, even in peacetime."

However, times have changed and Mr Barak is now the Foreign Minister in the Government of Shimon Peres, who is prepared to hand back the area to Syria in return for peace in the region. Mr Peres has made it clear that a treaty with Syria should pave the way for peace with all countries in the Middle East, starting with Lebanon, which is effectively under Syrian control.

The Prime Minister has said that Israel is willing to withdraw its troops from southern Lebanon provided that Syria, which has 40,000 soldiers in the country, can guarantee an end to attacks by members of the pro-Iranian Islamic Hezbollah organisation. For years Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon have threatened the citizens of northern Israel.

Reaching an agreement with Syria will not be easy, and the secret negotiations between Israeli and Syrian officials which began in Washington yesterday are expected to take months to resolve difficult issues, particularly those surrounding the future of the Golan Heights. Syria is demanding a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops to lines occupied by both sides on June 4, 1967, and the evacuation of all of the estimated 13,000 Jewish settlers in the area.

In the past Israel has appeared determined to hold on to about 60 sq km of the Golan Heights, in order to retain effective control over the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the country's main source of drinking water. However, Syria wants control over all water resources on the Golan Heights, amounting to about 300 million cubic metres of water per year, which flows into the Jordan River and then to the Sea of Galilee.

In previous talks between the two countries, Israel has also insisted that it be allowed early-warning military stations in the Golan Heights to prevent surprise attacks by Syria. Damascus has rejected the notion of such stations and said that Israel should settle for satellite surveillance of the region.



Israel has recently shown signs of being flexible over this issue and agreement could hinge on the willingness of Syria to agree to a large demilitarised zone along the Israeli border. Israel also wants Syria to reduce the size of its military force. Should the negotiators be able to reach agreement over these thorny issues, Mr Peres will also demand that Syria agrees to full diplomatic and economic relations with Israel.

Fate of negotiations rests with Arabs' master strategist



Assad: now a useful ally

BY MICHAEL THEODOULOU

PRESIDENT ASSAD of Syria, the Arab world's master strategist, who has used patience, guile and stubbornness to command a leading role on the regional and world stage, hopes to crown a turbulent quarter of a century in power by winning back the Golan Heights.

Arab diplomats say it was the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, that persuaded Mr Assad to return to the peace table after a six-month gap. "It finally convinced him there was a genuine rift between the Israeli Right and Left. Before, he thought it was only a negotiating tactic," one said. Syrian insiders said, if all went well, the two sides would sign a declaration of principle after three months in which Rabin's successor, Shimon Peres, would commit Israel to returning the Golan Heights. But the withdrawal would not be enacted until after Israeli elections in October. The promise of peace would boost Mr Peres's election hopes without risking a backlash if settlers are moved from the Golan.

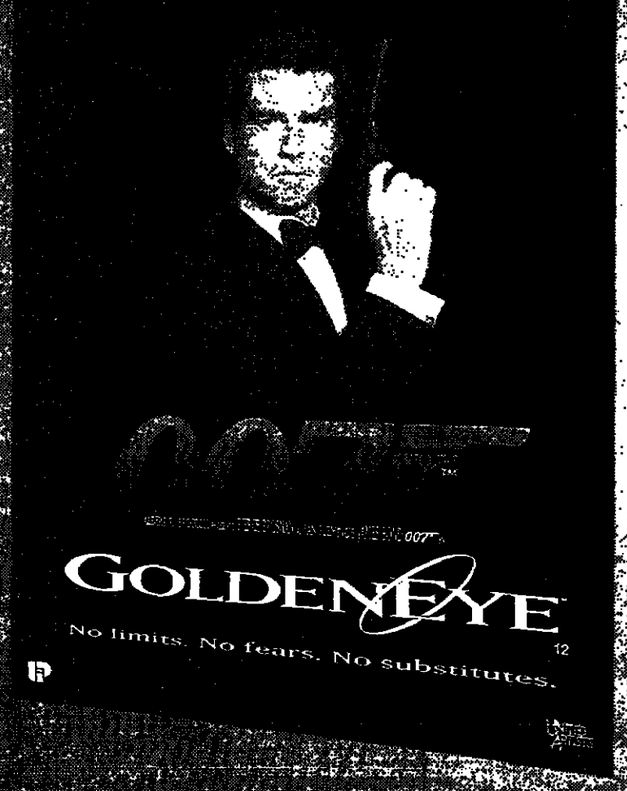
Mr Assad, who led Syria in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and nearly regained the Golan, was once described by Israel as its most dangerous enemy. He thundered against Arab moderates, courted Kremlin bosses and forced the United States into a withdrawal from Lebanon. But his Machiavellian skills commanded respect from his adversaries. For Henry Kissinger, Mr Assad was "the most interesting man in the Middle East".

Peace now would guarantee Mr Assad the international respectability he has craved. His transformation under Western eyes from a sponsor of terrorism to a useful ally began when he sent his forces to join the international coalition against Iraq in 1990. The astute move also helped to end his isolation in the Arab world after Syria's support of Iran in its eight-year war with Iraq. Washington made no protest when Mr Assad's troops crushed the forces of the rebel Christian general, Michel Aoun, in Lebanon which, after 15 years of civil war, was forced to accept a Damascus-backed Government. Then in 1991, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Syria's superpower ally, Mr Assad opened peace talks with Israel.

Few remember the Hindawi affair, when Syria was accused of attempting to blow up an El Al jet at Heathrow in 1986, or that Syrian-based radicals were first accused of the Lockerbie disaster. More remote still is his suppression in 1982 of the fundamentalist challenge to his secular rule in the city of Hama, which left an estimated 20,000 dead.

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Rocket attack on French security van kills guard

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

ROBBERS armed with rocket launchers and machineguns carried out a spectacular attack on a security van in France yesterday, killing a guard before escaping with a large sum of cash.

Two other guards were injured in the attack, which occurred at night on the motorway linking Lille and Paris. Detectives believe the assault might have been the work of a Belgian gang which carried out a similar raid near Brussels last week.

Early yesterday, up to ten gangsters, all hooded and wearing black clothing, forced the van to stop by laying barbed wire at a motorway exit five miles south of Lille, blocking escape with two cars. A witness said they were all carrying machineguns.

When the three-man crew refused to get out, taking refuge in the back of the truck, the gang blew open the doors with rocket launchers, the witness said. The guard who died in the explosion was a father of three. The other two were hit in the legs, but last night doctors said that their lives were not in danger.

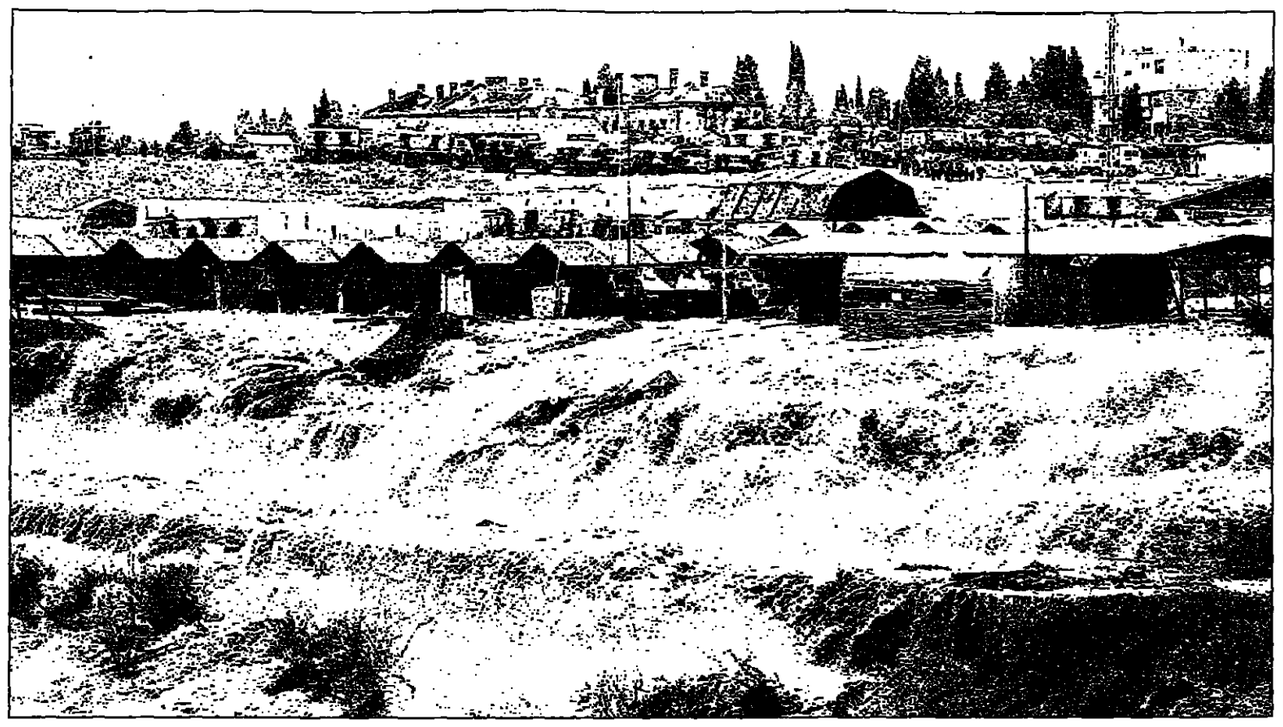
Police said the crew did not have time to return fire, such was the speed of the attack. More than 60 spent shells were found on the ground.

Although the value of the haul has not been disclosed, the van was carrying a large amount since it had been collecting takings from supermarkets around Lille. Officers said only four bags of cash were found at the scene, implying that many more had disappeared.

One of the witnesses was a van driver who was following the security van down the slip road when it was attacked. "They pointed their guns at me," he told French radio. "They told me to get out. I got out and I ran."

Detectives said the attack could be linked to a raid on a security van on a motorway on the outskirts of Brussels. A gang blocked the van with two lorries before opening fire with machineguns on the crew. The Belgian guards shot back and managed to fight off the attackers. A child was injured.

The guard killed yesterday was the first person to die in an attack on a security van for 18 months in France. However, in a country where the murder rate is higher than in Britain, such incidents are by no means rare. Fifteen people have died in assaults on security vans in France since 1990.



Flash floods swept through the French Army camp at Mostar in south Bosnia yesterday, forcing dozens of Foreign Legionnaires attached to the Nato peace force to be airlifted to safety by helicopter (Our Foreign Staff writes). Major Bernard Noblet said: "We have evacuated 62 men by helicopter so far. At this hour there are no human losses." The peace accord passed a crucial test, however, as the warring factions vacated designated positions along Sarajevo's front line by yesterday's midnight deadline. Under the terms of the agreement, rival military forces were required to withdraw from about 40 flashpoints. As they prepared to give up their positions on Mount Trebevic, the Bosnian Serb soldiers appeared dejected. "We are very confused," said one. "We've had so many conflicting orders over the past three days."

Nato troops airlifted from Bosnian floods

Spanish election set for March

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

SPANIARDS will go to the polls on March 3 and either re-elect the Socialist leader, Felipe González, who formally announces the date to his Cabinet today, or — as predicted — trigger the first change of government since 1982.

The general election, the seventh since democracy was restored to Spain after the death of Franco in 1975, is being called a year early by Señor González, whose minority Government has been hit by a series of scandals. It will coincide with regional elections in the Socialists' traditional stronghold of Andalusia.

The main opposition in the Cortes, the centre-right Popular Party, has tried to capitalise on Señor González's self-inflicted misfortunes. But its slender six-point lead in opinion polls shows that José María Aznar, its leader, needs to offer a more constructive alternative than hostile criticism.

The Spanish courts decided this week that only seven of the original 39 people accused of illegally financing the Socialist Party will face trial, while the brother of Alfonso Guerra, the deputy party leader, received his third sentence for corruption.

At his trial on Tuesday on charges of tax evasion, Juan Guerra was sentenced to 18 months in prison, which he is not expected to serve, fined £250,000 and ordered to pay £200,000 to the Treasury.

Bardot says her crusade to save seals has failed

BY ADAM SAGE

BRIGITTE BARDOT believes her crusade to save the baby seal has failed. In an interview yesterday with the French newspaper *Le Parisien Libéré* she said: "I have reached the limit of my capabilities. I cannot fight against the financial interests."

Her comments came 18 years after she attracted world attention to the culling of white baby seals, being photographed with them in the middle of an ice floe. The crusade began the transformation of her image from Fifties sex kitten to the best-known animal rights militant.

Although white seals are no longer culled, largely as a result of her efforts, they can be killed as soon as they moult, from the age of 15 days. This year Norway has authorised the culling of 17,000 young seals. Canada has increased its quota from 186,000 to 287,000 seals.

"I am 61 years old and I cannot return to the ice floe as I did at 43, especially when I see the slim success of this type of campaign," Madame Bardot said in the interview. "I am desperate. I thought I had obtained something and it is as though nothing at all has happened.

"In 1977 the world reacted very well and was conscious of the cruelty of what was happening. Things have gone back exactly as they were before. Even if they are killed at 16 days rather than 15, they are still babies, even if their fur is no longer white. It is pure hypocrisy. News of the latest culls is a terrible Chistmas present for me."

Fishermen say the seals have to be killed because they eat the fish stock. But the former film star said: "It is not the seals which are decimating them, but drift nets and industrial-scale fishing by the Russians, Spanish and South Koreans. We must not blame the seals, who have been there for millions of years and who always eat their poor quota of fish, for what we humans are responsible for."



Bardot: "I cannot fight financial interests"

□ **Paris:** France will carry out the fifth nuclear test in its current series today, *Le Canard Enchaîné* reported yesterday. But sources close to the Government said the test was being conducted last night, Paris time.

The weekly said French nuclear scientists had planned to carry out the low-power test in French Polynesia on December 22, but it was delayed at the request of Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister.

The report also said President Chirac was in a hurry to get the sixth and final test over with in January, ahead of a planned visit to the United States in February. *(AFP)*

Feminist pirate fails to make a killing at the box office

BY GILES WHITTELL

JUST when Hollywood thought it was safe to go back into the water, a $120 million (£77 million) feminist pirate epic has fulfilled dire predictions by failing disastrously at the American box office.

Six months late and some $30 million over budget, *Cutthroat Island* is making Kevin Costner's *Waterworld* look like a model of sound film economics. The new film stars Geena Davis, who made her name in *Thelma and Louise*. Despite her swashbuckling turn as a 6ft prostitute-cum-buccaneer, it took in a token $2.4 million on its opening weekend.

Dismal Christmas attendances were partly due to a critical drubbing. "Like a slow voyage aboard the Pinafore", was the *Washington Post* verdict, while the *Los Angeles Times* bewailed a "weary rehash of every pirate movie under the sun" that might, at best, cure Ms Davis of "her Errol Flynn obsession".

Production nightmares began when Michael Douglas, the $8 million male lead, walked out, citing a need to spend more time with his wife. He was also said to be upset at having less dialogue than his co-star.

Tom Cruise, Keanu Reeves and Liam Neeson all declined the role of Calico Jack, sidekick to Ms Davis's piratess, for fear of languishing in her shadow, insiders said.

The Finnish director, Renny Harlin — Ms Davis's husband — refused to have her part rewritten. Mr Harlin, whose producers had threatened to abort the project, risked his reputation by taking out a full-page advertisement in *Daily Variety*, the trade paper, promising a heart-stopping blockbuster on a par with his previous successes such as *Cliffhanger* and *Die Hard 2*.

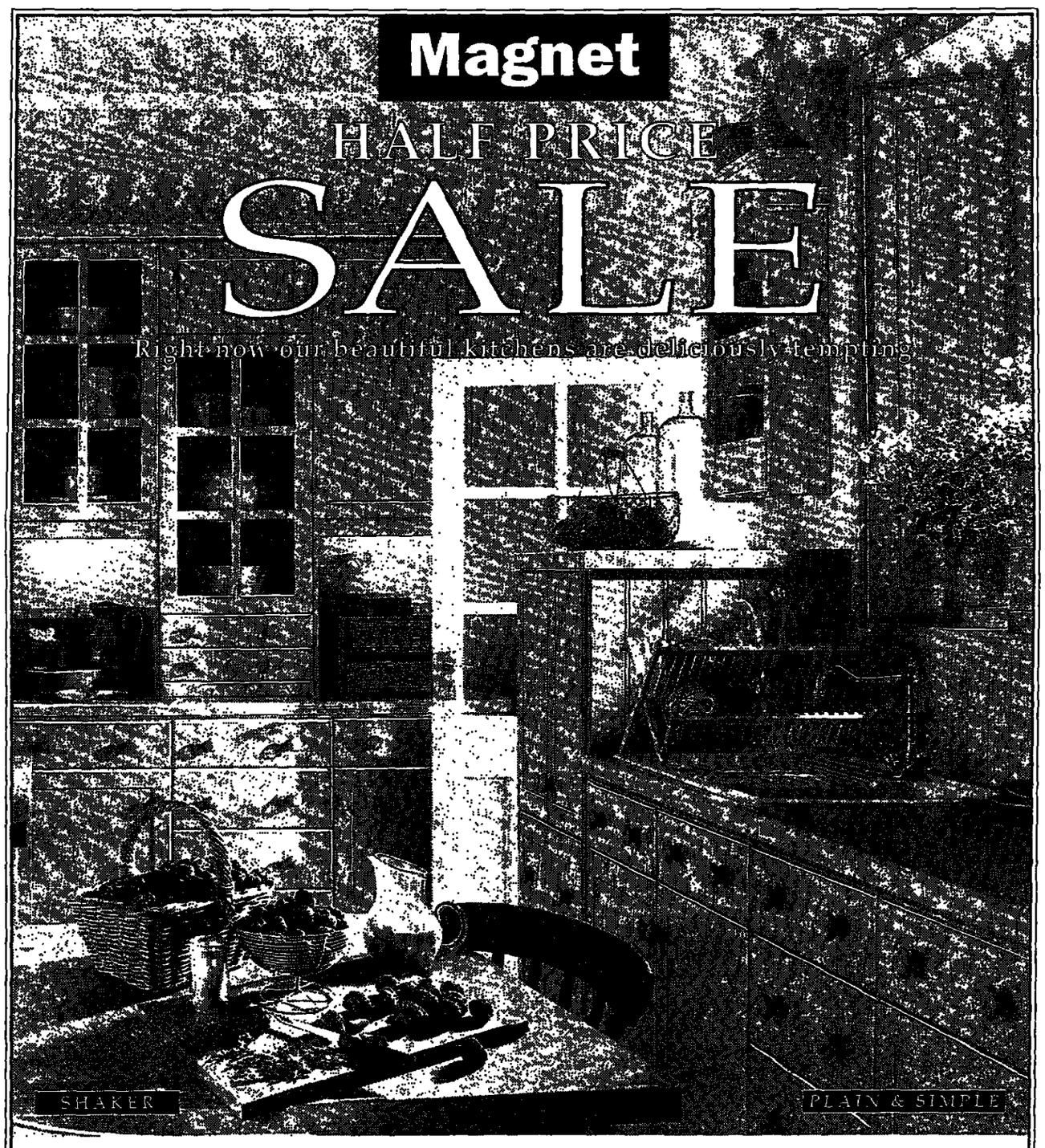
Instead he has delivered for the financially strapped MGM/United Artists studio what is known as a turkey.

Cutthroat Island was spared the storms that plagued the $175 million *Waterworld* — its set sank off Hawaii — but was not helped when Italian technicians walked out after one suffered a crushed leg, nor when Ms Davis went down with heat exhaustion and food poisoning in Thailand.

The only believable buccaneer, the hard-drinking Oliver Reed, was fired after allegedly dropping his trousers in front of the director and his wife.



Geena Davis: struck low by heat and food poisoning



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How a newborn baby could help to save a child's life

A special blood bank offers hope to young leukaemia victims, says Jeremy Laurance



Charlotte's best hope for a donor was her baby sister, Anna, but ironically, her bone marrow matched brother Ben's

CHARLOTTE Schroder is a one-in-a-million child. The mop-haired five-year-old has bone marrow so rare that the worldwide donor list failed to turn up a single person with compatible cells.

For Charlotte and her parents, the failure to find a matched donor was devastating. She has leukaemia and is undergoing her second two-year course of chemotherapy.

Her best chance of a cure has been a bone-marrow transplant. But this month a new kind of blood bank has opened in Britain offering hope for children like Charlotte. The cord blood bank will hold blood taken from the umbilical cords of newborn babies. Cord blood is unique because it contains a high proportion of the stem cells, also found in bone marrow, which replenish the body's red and white blood cells.

If Charlotte's second course of chemotherapy fails — and there is only a 20 per cent chance that it will succeed — she will need whole-body radiotherapy to eliminate the leukaemia. As a result her bone marrow will be destroyed, which is why she needs a donor.

Because cord blood is immature, it does not require such stringent matching. For an ordinary bone-marrow transplant at least five out of the six antigens (proteins) in the marrow must match. For cord blood, it is possible that a transplant will take with as few as four antigens matched.

Among the first donors to the bank was Charlotte's sister Anna, now aged six months. When Ellen Schroder, their mother, became pregnant with Anna, she was told there was a one in four chance that her marrow would be a perfect match for Charlotte's. "I had the amniocentesis test on Anna early in pregnancy. She was only a half match to Charlotte. Worse, she was a complete match to her brother, Ben."

She knows the best chance of saving her daughter is to spread news of her predicament as far and wide as possible in the hope of finding a donor. The launch of the cord blood bank could provide the lifeline Charlotte needs.

Research on cord blood is being carried out in several centres in Britain, including Bristol, Newcastle and Belfast. But the London bank, which is part of the National Blood Service, and based at Colindale, is the first to begin taking routine donations.

Placentas, normally disposed of after birth, will be collected at Edgware General Hospital and samples of blood will be taken from the cord. Consent will be sought from the mothers.

The scheme is the brainchild of Dr Marcella Contreras, director of the North London Blood Service. A Chilean refugee, she is a woman with restless energy and a passionate commitment. "Cord blood was wasted," she says. "In using it, the mother doesn't suffer and the infant doesn't suffer. On the bone marrow register it can take three to six months to arrange for a donor. With the cord blood bank it will take a maximum of two weeks."

Only 100 cord blood transplants have been performed worldwide and none has yet been undertaken in the UK.

The use of the word transplant makes the procedure sound more complex than it is. The cord blood, which is stored in liquid nitrogen, after collection, is thawed out and infused directly into a vein. The stem cells find their way to the patient's bone marrow and begin making blood cells. The procedure is painless and takes about 30 minutes.

Initially only children and adults — weighing under eight stone — have been treated because of the small volume of blood collected from each cord. Attempts are being made to grow stem cells in the laboratory, expanding the volume available for transplant. If successful, this could allow cord blood to be used to treat adults.

In the US, the use of cord blood is now an accepted treatment. The largest bank, in New York, holds 5,000 samples. The London cord bank aims to collect 1,500 samples in the first year and a key advantage over the bone marrow registers is that blood from all ethnic groups will be collected. Mrs Schroder is hoping that a sample will turn up that offers her daughter an acceptable match. Failing that, her doctors may go ahead using her sister's cord blood in the hope that its immaturity will minimise the problems of graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) that can result if the blood is not a close match.

"That is the worst thing that could happen. The child is saved from leukaemia but has GVHD for life, with scaly skin rashes, permanent stomach ache and constant diarrhoea. It's a grim picture," she says.

Why cold turns the thinly clad British true blue

In patriotic vein



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

A GLANCE around the bar of the George and Dragon at Cley at this time of year reveals a remarkable number of red faces and blue hands. The high colour seen in many outdoor workers, which is particularly obvious in the winter, is not because of any excessive fondness for Greene King beers, or even something stronger, but because their faces have been lashed by freezing winds blowing off the icy north Norfolk marshes.

In Britain we brave the elements without wrapping up adequately, and our houses are not kept as warm as they would be in Scandinavia or North America. Countries which know that every winter is going to be as bad as it is now in the Shetland Islands are prepared, and their inhabitants have learnt not to wander around in the snow, hatless and wearing short jackets.

The inevitable result of being unprepared for icy conditions is that the peripheral circulation is tested — and unfortunately, in a cold snap, 10 per cent of the British population's circulation fails the test.

A chilblain, the most obvious result of extreme cold, is caused by narrowing of the blood vessels just below the skin. This vascular constriction starves the skin and subcutaneous tissue of necessary oxygen and nutrients, with the result that they become red, itchy, swollen and sometimes painful. Various remedies have been tried, ranging from increased vitamin intake to vasodilator drugs. If any work at all, none works well.

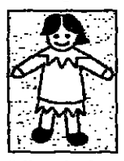
Soothing ointments are the best local remedy but the answer is to wear warm clothing, including gloves, to keep the hands and feet dry, for damp favours chilblains. Children and the elderly are most at risk.

Equestrian chilblains, an interesting variant to those found on the hands and feet, are pictured in the *Oxford Textbook of Medicine*. These attack the upper thighs and buttocks of riders, particularly women, whose jodhpurs are too tight. The combination of a thicker layer of subcutaneous fat, pressure from the jodhpurs, and the damp proves too much for the skin of those who venture out on a frosty, damp morning.

The changes in response to persistent cold are known as perniosis and affect not only the skin, but also the subcutaneous fat. The effect of this long-term cold is for limbs to develop a thicker skin and deeper layers of fat. The girth of the thighs in cold climates depends partly on the length of the skirt — the longer the skirt, the less plump the legs, so that when there is a fashion for very short skirts, there may be some heavy legs in the spring. Likewise there may also be an epidemic of spider veins, which occur when the skin is insulated by a thick layer of fat from the warmer, deeper, more vascular zone.

Older people should be careful not to bake their cold legs in front of a warm fire. The result can be permanent mottling, *livedo reticularis*.

Toys that are easy to swallow



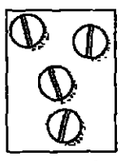
WHEN I was a casualty officer one Christmas many years ago, two small children were brought into the department within minutes of each other, suffering from severe breathing difficulties.

The same disaster had befallen both as they played beneath their Christmas trees. They had inhaled the heads of toy soldiers — for at that time the soldier's head could swivel or, with a determined pull by a child, the guardsman could be decapitated.

The *Journal of the American Medical Association* reports on a survey of what children swallow or inhale these days. Balloons, marbles and small balls were the objects most likely to obstruct airways, and therefore the most dangerous toys.

The authors of the report would like to see the diameter of all children's toys increased to more than 4.44 centimetres. They also give warning that children are not out of danger from inhalation or swallowing of toys until they are over six. Children over three are, in fact, those most likely to come to grief when playing with balloons.

Parkinson's drug safety fears



PARKINSON's disease affects one person in a hundred over 65, and a third of those in that age group have similar symptoms but are not affected by the classic degeneration of neurones in the *substantia nigra* of the brain. Parkinson's can also start much earlier, and is seen quite often in patients in their 40s and 50s.

In recent years, a drug called Eldepryl (selegiline) has been recommended to delay the onset of disabling symptoms and postpone the need to use levodopa, the drug most often prescribed for Parkinson's disease.

After a trial of 500 patients, reported in the *British Medical Journal*, doubts have been expressed about Eldepryl's safety when taken with some antidepressants, and also about its possible effect on vulnerable arteries in the heart or brain.

Medical Monitor, a journal for general practitioners, quotes a spokesman from the Parkinson's Disease Association who recommends that patients should continue to take the drug, but discuss it with their doctors. Previous studies have not shown any increased mortality in those taking Eldepryl.

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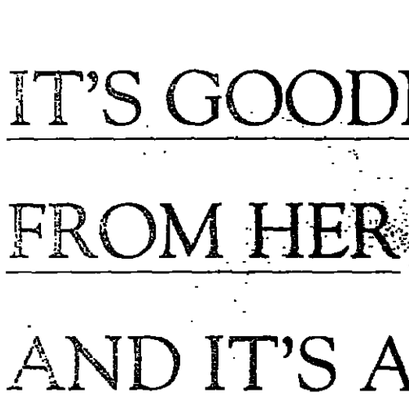


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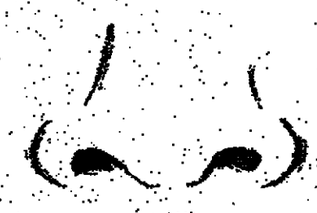


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Where will you see in the year 2000?

Real partygoers have booked their seats on Concorde, an island in the Maldives or their berths on a 20-day cruise on the *QE2*. Jon Ashworth reports on plans to celebrate the millennium

ADVERTISING ARCHIVE



Dreaming of better times to come: the millennium promises to be more exciting than *The Saturday Evening Post's* vision of 1949

IT HAS BEEN hailed as the party night of a lifetime — and business is booming. The inexorable approach of New Year's Eve 1999 has sparked a flood of bookings for *marquees*, castles, airliners and fine champagne. Seats on Concorde are at a premium for revellers hoping to beat the clock, while a mystery order for 5,000 bottles of vintage champagne has sent wine merchants scrambling for stocks. The millennium looms and there is serious money to be made.

Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, knew what he was saying when he told an Arts Council lunch in 1989: "If it is at all possible, purchase an option on any dance hall you can find for the night of December 31, 1999." Six years on, punters are vying for places in everything from Tower Bridge to Wembley Stadium. The Albert Hall has been booked since 1975. Famously, the American-based Millennium Society has commandeered the *QE2* for a 20-day cruise at a cost of £300,000 a day.

> The Albert Hall has been booked since 1975

Party organisers have been quick to come up with bright ideas. Andrew Chance of Chance Entertainment, a London-based party and event organiser, has been taking deposits on bands, entertainers and discotheques. He hopes to host a major bash in London's Battersea Park, and is planning a dance in Norfolk for up to 800 people.

Credit for the most daring booking goes to "a successful UK businessman", who is arranging simultaneous millennium parties in Sydney, London and New York. He wants to charter Concorde in the hope of attending each party in person, racing ahead of the rising sun. "He won't beat the clock," Mr Chance says, "but it'll be good fun." Seats on the trip would undoubtedly command a hefty premium.

William Deakin of Juliana's, another London-based party organiser, says bookings are strong for New Year's Eve in 1999 and 2000, when the 20th century technically ends. Indeed, the whole year in between looks like being one long party. A spirited soul is understood to have booked an island in the Maldives. Others are reported to be eyeing the Palace of Versailles.

Mr Deakin is taking bookings for parties for 200 to 300 people a time at a cost of about £500 a head. "There is an abundance of venues," he says. "What we will run out of first is good *entertainment*. There's obviously also going to be a shortage of champagne." Some guests will be flown to France to party the night away in a luxury château. One individual hopes to throw a party for 200 people at a cost of £350 a head, picking up the entire £70,000 bill *himself*.

The Savoy has enough bookings for December 31, 1999, to fill it twice over. The hotel is contemplating holding a raffle to settle the matter. Prices have not been fixed but this year's revelries in the River Restaurant start at £280 a head. Guests are typically treated to Pol Roger champagne, a seven-course dinner and dancing, ahead of a marching parade by the Grenadier Guards. Breakfast is served in the Pinafore Room, before festivities wind up at 3am.

The entire hotel will be turned over to millennium celebrations on the big night. The Savoy admits that there is nothing to prevent successful applicants from selling on their hard-won places at a *higher price*. A *spokesman says*: "Entrance will be by paid ticket, and they would have to inform us of any changes." Bookings at Claridge's are running close behind, while requests for the ballroom at the Berkeley are "respectable".

One would expect Richard Branson to pull out all the stops for New Year's Eve, 1999, and fans will not be disappointed. Virgin is planning a whole host of events. It tried to hire Edinburgh Castle for the night but the Scots decided to use the venue themselves. More *than 200 people have applied to* book the Roof Gardens nightclub in Kensington, London, and Virgin has received thousands of requests from high-flyers looking to charter Virgin aircraft. No bookings are *being taken as yet. Celebrations are* planned for passengers travelling *on scheduled flights when the New* Year dawns.

British Airways has been inundated with requests from companies and individuals hoping to charter Concorde for the "ultimate" *New Year's Eve party. Chartering* the supersonic jet for a flight from London to New York and back would cost £200,000 — £850 a seat — allowing trendy revellers to see in the millennium three times in one night. After a boisterous celebration in London, they could board *the supersonic jet and* celebrate for a second time in mid-Atlantic. On arrival, they could do it all over again.

Those aiming for the "ultimate" millennium snub could simply fly the other way. They could leave New York shortly before midnight, *freezing time en route, then set* their watches forward on arrival, missing the event completely.

British Airways has set up a millennium department to sift through all the requests. Some are from companies looking to pamper favoured clients, others are from wealthy individuals on both sides of the Atlantic. The airline is considering auctioning Concorde off, in the hope of raising vast sums for charity. There are seven Concordes in the BA fleet, and three will be committed to scheduled services on the day. Either way, tickets will be worth their weight in gold.

The really serious money has gone to the House of Krug in Rheims, which has reserved 5,000 bottles of Krug Vintage 1985, at £90 a bottle, on behalf of a mystery buyer. The order, worth an impressive £450,000, was placed by a London wine merchant. The bottles have been stashed away in the Krug cellars under lock and key.

Rémi Krug, the flamboyant family spokesman, said there are no plans for a special millennium cuvée. "People who want to celebrate the millennium will be drinking Krug," he sniffs. "Krug is sufficiently unique and different." A customer in Germany has had a consignment of Krug Vintage 1975 in his cellar for the past ten years, with the dawn of the new century in mind.

Mr Krug, for his part, expects to spend a lively New Year's Eve on December 31, 1999. "A friend, a wine lover, who lives in Belgium, wrote to me ten years ago and asked me to keep it free," he says. "It's a mystery invitation but knowing this guy, I know that I'm going to be drinking seriously." The offer is not for sale.

Far-sighted partygoers still have time to put some money aside. GAN Life & Pensions, based in Harlow, Essex, offers a Millennium Income & Growth Bond, which pays out in the year 2000, and would *provide funds* for some serious entertainment.

Anyone who invested £10,000 earlier this year, could expect to see the sum grow to £16,050 by the end of the term. It may not buy 5,000 *bottles of Krug, but then again* ... Who's counting?

Giles Coren on the fanatics who'll go anywhere for a ride on a big dipper

The ups and downs of coastermania

If you thought that riding rollercoasters was no more than a cheap thrill to be indulged on the occasional Bank Holiday weekend, and that the benefits of riding one ran no further than a whitening of the knuckles and the evacuation of your breakfast in an inverted loop 200ft off *the ground, then you are very* possibly an irreligious sex maniac and your marriage is probably in trouble.

For the impression given of the art of rollercoasting in *Coastermania*, a BBC2 documentary to be screened at 4.50pm on New Year's Day, is that, like so many things, it is all about sex and God. In many ways the enthusiasts featured in the programme resemble a slightly more fun-loving branch of the train-spotter family. They are into serial numbers and list-making, they have lost all sense of proportion, and at the centre of *their obsession* pumps a nostalgic heart: for in a world dominated by steel structures, the wooden rollercoaster occupies a position akin to that of locomotion by *steam*.

But there is more to it than merely riding and cataloguing. The Rev Cliff Herring of Pennsylvania has con*ducted numerous* marriage ceremonies aboard rollercoasters, and claims that every couple so spliced has stayed together. "I *think it increases their* chances of staying together because they are willing to look at a relationship as something that is not just dull and traditional," he claims. But it may have more to do with the assertion by a member of the Rollercoaster Club of Great Britain that *coastermaniacs* prefer coasting to sex. One of them, indeed, admits to loving rollercoasters more than he loves his wife. One wonders what these couples, so firmly locked in marriage, actually do all day.

According to the Rev Nick Bralesford of Chapel-en-le-Frith, Derbyshire, whom I caught just before he *disappeared on a three-week* roller-coasting tour of America, they just ride a lot of rollercoasters.

"I have been at it for 38 years," he says, "*Since my* father took me on the Billy Butlin Figure Eight in Skegness when I was four. I even proposed to my wife halfway up the lift-hill of the Grand National ride." That, of course, was in the days before an Englishman could actually sign the register upside down inside a corkscrew.

To tell me exactly how many coasters he had rolled, he had to consult his computer. "Five hundred and eight different ones, worldwide — in Britain, the Continent, America and Japan. At an average of 20 rides per rollercoaster, that makes 10,000 rides, each of approximately one third of a mile. Which is to say that I have travelled 3,330 miles by gravity in my life.

"I shall cover another hundred or so over the new year — last year we drove 8,000 miles in three weeks to ride 100 coasters."

Expensive? Not a bit of it. As a member of the 5,000-strong *American Coaster Enthusiasts* (ACE), he has a free season ticket to most of the world's great rides.

Is this not a rather peculiar passion for a vicar? Or, on the other hand, is it perhaps only when being turned inside out at 70mph and experiencing five times the normal pull of gravity, that one can really appreciate the benefits of *faith*? "Oh, I don't think it's that at all," he says. "Although I do often work rollercoasting into my sermons, to illustrate the ups and downs and unpredictability of our journey through life."

He finds it hard to explain what makes the experience worth having 10,000 times. He talks of the great unique rides like the Scandia Screamer in Ontario and Tokyo's Moonsault Scramble, and how they compare to production-line standards such as the Corkscrew and the Wild Mouse. He explains in terms of out-of-seat experience the intensity of forces in the loop at the back and front of the roller (wooden ones are best ridden at the front, steel ones at the back). The Moonsault Scramble, for example, is so good that it makes you see black and white, gives you tunnel vision, and occasionally knocks you out. "It gives 5.6 times the force of gravity, six Gs is guaranteed unconsciousness."

Are the pleasures to be derived here not a little vicious for a vicar? After all, a Mr Glaister talks in the documentary of the "Oh my God, I'm being pulled down into the bowels of the earth by the devil *himself feeling*".

Mr Bralesford's response is a stock one among dangerous sports enthusiasts: "Rollercoasting is one of the safest forms of transport there is. You are more *likely* to get killed in your car on the way to the amusement park, than on the ride itself." We sinners, however, are well aware that the two perils are not mutually exclusive.

"Of course, a decent ride should make you grab the handrail the first time around," he says. "But the true enthusiast rides with his hands in the air, moving with the ride, feeling it, not resisting it." And Mrs Bralesford? "She is an enthusiastic ride companion — but she is not so keen on the technological and historical side as I am." Who can blame her? At least she does not suffer the ignominy of being a rollercoaster widow.

The thing about Mr Bralesford and Mr Herring is that they cover their thousands of murderous miles confident in the existence of a better place to come (indeed, Mr Bralesford wears a T-shirt announcing "There are no rollercoasters in hell").

But for potential punters not so certain of salvation, the words of one coastermaniac on New Year's Day may sound more than a little discouraging: "The ultimate rollercoaster," he suggests, "is one when everybody comes back to the station dead."



Thousands flock to Alton Towers every year for the scariest rides

INSIDE SECTION 2

The year of the pig? Geoff Brown on *Babe* and the other top films of 1995

Page 31

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Janet Daley



■ Since knife attack is becoming *fashionable as a crime among the* young, it is essential that some specific step be taken

The widow of Philip Lawrence has said that her husband would have been embarrassed by the adulation which made him Radio 4's Personality of the Year. Such is the response of the hero to praise: it was nothing — I was only doing my job. Mrs Lawrence's description of her late husband as being "modest to the point of self-deprecation" seems of a piece with *the rest of his behaviour*, which was based on the almost forgotten principle that one accepts one's responsibilities without hesitation or complaint.

Mrs Lawrence has requested that his memory be commemorated in a more lasting way: that society somehow rededicate itself to *defeating the forces of violence*.

Being modest herself, she would not say so, but I suspect that she would like to see her husband's death become a turning point — for all the strength of moral outrage and sympathy that it has evoked to be channelled into a crusade against the mindless urban brutality which now looks intractable.

So what is to be done? Given that Mrs Lawrence has probably expressed the desire of hundreds of thousands of people: what would it mean to act on such a wish? If she were to be granted her request for a public forum — a commission of politicians and churchmen and ordinary people — to devote themselves to the problem of violence, what could we expect from it? What would plausible solutions — as opposed to predictable platitudes — look like?

Mrs Lawrence is right to say that the malaise — and the public fear — go far beyond the matter of knife-carrying. One father who made the mistake of trying to defend his home was beaten almost fatally with a brick. Others who have intervened to stop vandals have been kicked to death.

But if there is to be any hope at all of coming to grips with the mess we are now in, we must break it down into manageable parts. And in the case of Philip Lawrence's own death, the immediate cause was the proliferation of knife-carrying. If there are lawless tribes of youths marauding through our cities, then that is a problem of such huge proportions that it defies any simple analysis, but if those hordes are now universally equipped with knives, then that is a particular fact which should be amenable to remedy.

Knife attack is becoming fashionable as a crime among the young. The carrying of a knife has itself become a sign of initiation into criminal street culture. If this trend is not to become entrenched, it is absolutely essential that some quite specific step be taken. There is an intriguing parallel between the rise of robbery at knife point and the notorious Victorian crime of garrotting. That too became a *criminal fashion, provoking* enormous public alarm and popular condemnation in the press.

From 1861 to 1863, there had been a sudden wave of street robberies using this peculiarly terrifying method. A gang — usually consisting of three people — would attack from behind, one slipping a rope around the victim's neck. With a force that threatened strangulation, the victim's head would be pulled backwards to immobilise him. A second attacker struck him repeatedly *from the front while* rifling his pockets. A third keeping watch ensured that the whole swift operation could be carried out even in areas that police regularly patrolled.

The success of the technique — which was marked by gratuitous ferocity, not unlike the more savage muggings of recent years — led to hubris. Just as the knife gives Dutch courage to young criminals now, the garrotters emerged boldly from their usual territory of the East End into the most respectable parts of London. So confident did they become that they no longer sought dark alleyways but carried out their attacks in broad daylight — as knife-wielding assailants often do now. In 1862, an MP walking from Parliament to his club in Pall Mall was garrotted in a well-lit spot. None of the five policemen walking the area heard an untoward sound.

If tribes of youths carry knives, that should be amenable to remedy

Inevitably, garrotting led to deaths. One victim's throat was crushed, another died of the wounds he suffered in a struggle with his attackers. As now, the public was enraged and frightened by this apparently unstoppable wave of incidents. Vigilantes who sought out the gangs were apparently so fearsome themselves as to strike terror into passers-by.

The Victorians, less encumbered by class guilt and moral ambivalence than we are, took the steps that seemed to be called for: the Garrotting Act of 1863 prescribed flogging for convicted offenders and the police improved their tactics of surveillance so that arrests became far more frequent. By 1865, garrotting had virtually died out.

Call it what you will — moral panic, middle-class *vengeance or a secure belief* in the right of law-abiding people to safety — the Victorians had what we singularly lack: the political will to enforce their social values. Without that, I fear we are lost.

Poet Padraic Pearse had a romantic vision for Ireland, but he was executed by the English in 1916

Death of a dreamer

William Rees-Mogg

Every educated person in Ireland knows who Padraic Pearse was, but hardly anyone in England remembers. That is an example of the crass ignorance which made the English govern Ireland so badly for some 750 years.

He does not even appear in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, which has room for many less important Irish figures: The 80th anniversary of his death will be this April; what he wrote, what he did, and what he believed in remain very relevant to the future of the peace process and the history of modern Ireland.

Padraic Pearse was a poet, one of the best Irish poets of his time. His own poetry was mainly written in the Irish language, though he also translated poetry from Irish into English.

His Irish poetry was itself translated by Thomas MacDonagh, another name which will be quite familiar to Irish readers but is almost unknown to the English. MacDonagh translated Padraic Pearse's poem *To Death*; it has been taken as an epitaph.

I have not gathered gold;
The fame that I won perished;
In love I found but sorrow,
That withered my life.

Of wealth or of glory
I shall leave nothing behind me
(I think it, O God, enough!)
But my name in the heart of a child.

Padraic Pearse was a leading figure, perhaps the leading figure, in a group of Irish people who early in this century had an historic and poetic vision for the future of Ireland. His first biographer, Padraic Colum, defines it in this way: "All his programmes were for the recreation of a chivalry in Ireland."

Padraic Pearse was on the executive of the Gaelic League and editor of its weekly *An Claidheamh Soluis* (the Sword of Light). Like many Irish patriots, he was partly English by descent; his father, an Englishman living in Ireland, had been brought up as a Protestant. His deep Catholicism he had from his mother; he did not marry, but shared his home with her, with his brother William — another name the Irish remember — and his two sisters.

He taught himself the old Gaelic language. He believed that the lasting values of Irish civilisation, going back to the age of heroes, had best been preserved by the Irish peasantry in their poverty: he mastered the language by spending long periods in a cottage he owned in one of the poorest parts of West Connacht.

In 1908 he decided it would be more important to be an educator than an editor: he retired from the Gaelic League's journal, and founded two schools near Dublin, St Enda's for boys and St Ita's for girls. They were then the only lay Catholic schools in Ireland. We can best understand his underlying philosophy through what he wrote about education.

"All the problems with which we strive were long ago solved by our ancestors, only their solutions have been forgotten ... for my part I take off my hat to the old Irish ... their very names for 'education' and 'teacher' and 'pupil' show that they had gripped the heart of the problem. The word for 'education' among the old Gael was the same as the word for 'fostering', the teacher was a 'fosterer' and the pupil was a 'foster-child'.

"Now to 'foster' is exactly the function of a teacher; not primarily to 'lead up', to 'guide', to 'conduct through a course of studies' and still less to 'indoctrinate', to 'inform', to 'prepare for exams', but primarily to 'foster' the elements of character already present ... One does not want to drill all one's pupils into so many regulation little soldiers or so many stodgy little citizens, though this is apparently the aim of the most cried-up of modern systems ... The true teacher will recognise in each of his pupils an individual human soul, distinct and different from every other human soul that has ever been fashioned by God."

Such were the principles of his liberal combination of religious faith, romantic antiquarianism and Irish nationalism. What did we do with this saintly poet? We shot him. He died in Dublin Castle after the Easter Rising of 1916, along with Thomas MacDonagh, his brother William Pearse, and some 17 others.

These are the Irishmen of whom William Butler Yeats wrote:

Our part
To murmur name upon name,
As a mother names her child

One cannot even blame the English for shooting Padraic Pearse. Easter in 1916 came late in April, only a couple of months before the Battle of the Somme. An army which was about to lose 90,000 of its own men in one battle could hardly be expected to spare 20 Irish rebels taken in arms, even if three of them were good poets.

The only solid reason of state for sparing them would have been the public relations cost in the United States, which had not yet entered the war. They were not spared.

Why did Padraic Pearse think it right to join the Irish Volunteers — precursors of the Irish Republican Army — and attempt an uprising against overwhelming British power in the middle of the First World War? Partly because he was a poet; his assessment of the prospects of a successful rebellion was not that of a practical military man. The parallel is Byron's death at Missolonghi; Greece like Ireland was to win her freedom within a few years.

The early Irish stories which Padraic Pearse knew and taught are full of noble sacrifices, forlorn hopes and the deaths of heroes. An Irish poet of the reign of Queen Elizabeth had written, in Padraic Pearse's own translation:

Or a barque's crew that a sea hath whelmed,
Or a band sentenced to death,
Or thralls in Galt's, fetters
Irish under outlanders!

He thought "Irish under outlanders" as intolerable as Byron thought Greeks under Ottoman rule, or the English of 1914 thought Europe under the Prussian Empire. He accepted the loss of his life as a price necessary for national liberty. In any other context but the Anglo-Irish, the *English tradition* would have honoured such a man.

When one looks at the consequences of his death, one can see an almost immediate vindication, including one chance but very important side-effect, and a longer-term tragedy. The side-effect may, strangely enough, have ensured British victory in the First World War. David Lloyd George was about to go to Russia with Lord Kitchener on a munitions supply mission. Lloyd George was diverted to Ireland; the cruiser *Hampshire*, on which he would otherwise have been travelling, struck a mine and virtually everyone, including Kitchener, was drowned. Without Lloyd George as Prime Minister in 1917, the war might well have been lost.

For Ireland, the Easter Rising and its repression destroyed support for the moderate pro-British leadership of the nationalists; it led to full independence of the South after 1921, and to the creation of the modern Republic. Padraic Pearse is, in this sense, the decisive martyr of Irish independence. The longer tragedy is equally apparent. Padraic Pearse gave false respectability to "the armed struggle". His "Irish Revolutionary Brotherhood" is the ideological ancestor of Sinn Fein-IRA.

The IRA has used methods of terrorism which he did not — he fought an open battle against superior forces. The IRA attempted to coerce the Protestant majority in Northern Ireland. Padraic Pearse fought to bring to an end the coercion by Britain of the Catholic majority in Southern Ireland.

The decision to execute him, however understandable in the circumstances of 1916, widened the breach of alienation between Ireland and England which the peace process is trying to close, but with such difficulty.

Yet the greatest tragedy is perhaps that the independent Ireland that emerged was not the land of the Gaelic League's vision, and is becoming less so by the year. The chivalrous values that Padraic Pearse fought for were those of an ancient Catholic peasant land of myth. Those values have just continued to influence Ireland, as is evident in the continuing hold of the Catholic Church, but the divorce referendum shows that even that is now in decline.

The Gaelic League looked back to the Celtic culture of the time of St Patrick. "The Ireland they willed would not be an autonomous West Britain but a resurgent Gaelic nationality." The Ireland they got was not, indeed, "an autonomous West Britain" but it was not a "resurgent Gaelic nationality" either. Perhaps Padraic Pearse knew that his romantic vision was not attainable:

I turned my back
On the dream I had shaped,
And to this road before me
My face I turned.
I set my face
To the road here before me,
To the work that I see,
To the death that I shall meet.

Blessings of a bleak midwinter

Magnus Linklater in the North of Scotland relearns some basic lessons about dealing with ice and snow

There is a particular kind of voice they use on the radio for bad weather news. It drops by a doom-laden semitone as the statistics of snow-bound Britain are read out: 4,000 homes still cut off ... emergency measures ... workers struggling to restore electricity. There is a hint of suffering beyond the imagination. They make it sound like Sarajevo.

Since I am sending this column from the ice hell they call northern Scotland I would naturally like to embellish the picture, to describe the flickering candlelight by which I write, the heroism of my wife as she struggles through the snow for our supplies of pemmican and oatcakes, the remarkable ingenuity of my son who has rigged up a makeshift generator to power the laptop computer while my daughter melts snow to dilute what may be the last malt whisky I shall sip for many a dark day.

It is not quite like that, although we are on the northern tip of Britain, about to embark for Orkney across a leaden sea. We have, it is true, had the experience of shovelling snow-slewed cars out of roadside drifts, applying boiling water to frozen windscreens, and driving 300 miles along single-tracked dual carriageways said to be negotiable only "with extreme caution". We have nursed freezing fingers and learnt the true meaning of "the wind-chill factor", when a gentle breeze on an open hillside acquires a cutting edge like razor wire. But we have also witnessed scenes of breathtaking beauty: snow-wrapped hills bathed in the pink light of morning; a pelmet of icicles beside the road, catching the light of the evening sun; the dazzling white of a winter cliff, fading into a grey sea.

As for the traditional "road chaos", I regret to report that I have been unable to locate it. Far from Britain's snowploughs and gritters being "caught on the hop" as most stories have assumed, in Scotland at least they have kept a remarkable number of roads open and reasonably sanded. The speed of travel, not surprisingly, has been halved, and overtaking is such a hazardous business that no one attempts it. But I saw no abandoned cars, overturned lorries or ashen-faced AA men talking of "nightmare conditions". I can, however, say that there is a strange excitement about embarking on a road where no plough has yet ventured, and where only a few tyremarks show that you are a part of an intrepid elite, that you rapidly acquire a sixth sense about icy stretches and that controlling a wheelspin is actually rather exhilarating. Shakespeare was on to something when he wrote about "wondrous strange snow".



The milk and the mail got through yesterday in parts of snow-bound Britain, thanks to deliveries by sledge

The British like to make a drama out of the weather; indeed, Shakespeare may well be responsible for that. But did we always exaggerate its effects as we do today? I remember — at least I think I do — the ice-bound winters of my childhood, in which snow chains on cars were a regular part of life, and you never travelled anywhere without a spade and a sack of sand in the boot. I don't recall snow being headline news then, but perhaps I didn't read the newspapers.

Certainly, in previous ages, deep snow was a routine part of life. Robert Burns describes a journey north to Blair Atholl in Perthshire, through drifts 7ft deep. In a horse-drawn carriage and over rutted tracks, it must have been truly a hellish journey, but the poet merely alludes to the weather in a throwaway line.

All we are experiencing now is something called winter, a season that used to happen regularly, but which we have tended to forget about. A decade or more of mild weather has cocooned us against the reality of sheet-ice and drifting snow. As a result, we have forgotten some basic lessons, instincts even, about dealing with cold weather.

In Peter Hoeg's bestselling novel, *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow*, the heroine, a native of Greenland, can identify 18 different kinds of snow and their characteristics. Her intimate knowledge of icy conditions, almost a genetic inheritance from her ancestors, gives her an extra dimension of intelligence and enables her to survive, while the villains of the story perish.

After reading about Miss Smilla, I recommend that British Rail recruits a native Greenlander to help to advise on such matters as why the light and feathery *qanik* snow falls as it does, and the significance of the fact that its crystals acquire the shape of a coffin as they get colder. Never again will BR need to blame "the wrong kind of snow".

For the rest of us, it's a matter of acquiring, through bitter experience, some basic lessons about ice, snow, and temperatures of minus ten. Like, never take a Volvo downhill over packed snow. The car may be Swedish-built, but driving it without snow tyres is like piloting a pair of skis, only far more frightening. The best car on slippery surfaces is the absurdly shaped Citroën 2CV, whose big wheels and even weight distribution give it a better grip than heavier, more powerful cars. (NB, this is folk wisdom rather than expert information and should naturally be treated with caution.) If you are negotiating an icy hill, never touch the brakes when you have started to slide, just turn the steering wheel gently in the general direction of the skid — and pray.

Always think ahead about what you are wearing and why it's not going to be enough. When you are shopping, remind yourself that you may not be able to do so again for a week. Think seriously about candles. And remember that most things in the cold take longer. You tend to dress slowly and carefully, protecting the exposed bits. You walk delicately. You drive with circumspection. Life slows down when you think ahead.

Perhaps, after all, there is something to be said for the bleak midwinter.

Battle royal

THE PRINCESS ROYAL is kicking out over proposals for a new housing estate in her backyard. She has lodged a formal objection with her local council after hearing of plans for "an executive village" on the site of a 14th-century mill bordering her Gloucestershire home, Gatcombe Park.

A London-based property developer is planning to build 73 homes on the site of the mill, a former clothing factory in a picturesque pocket with its own lake. The Princess appears to be baring her formidable teeth in the saga, saying the development is too big and that it could pose security problems. She has appointed planning agents to argue her case.

The company behind the scheme, Hartley Property Developments, protests its innocence. "Without being rude, a lot of the comments from their side do seem to be a little empty," said a spokesman. "Nothing we would do on that site would be intended to prejudice their security."

It is not clear whether Hartley's marketing campaign would capitalise on the development's proximity to the Gatcombe household. If Stroud council's planners nodded the scheme through. But the Princess Royal is laying a good few water jumps in their path before they get to that stage.



● *While Tony and Cherie Blair soaked up the Australian sunshine this Christmas, I trust they thought fleetingly of the Labour MP for Pembroke, Nick Ainger. He was among 200 brave souls who plunged into the icy sea for the 25th annual Boxing Day swim at Tenby in South Wales. He wore a sombrero and went in up to his neck.*

DIARY

Merry men

THE CAMBRIDGE University mafia has dominated the Cabinet in recent years, but a terrace house in Nottingham may come to be seen as the cradle of a future government. The Labour challengers at the general election to John Major, Brian Mawhinney and Douglas Hogg are a trio who plotted their political careers while sharing lodgings as students in the city.

Jason Reece and Sean Harris, both teachers, have been selected to take on the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister respectively. Lee Steptoe, a local government officer, is challenging the party chairman. "We were all involved in the Labour Club at university," says Reece. "But we didn't sit around the kitchen table plotting our careers on the back of an envelope like Michael Heseltine. It's a coincidence really."

● *Cops in New York who picked up an abandoned puppy in Central Park the other day are trying to find the emaciated creature a home by the new year. "She's as skinny as Kate Moss," says one officer. "So that's what we've called her. We need somebody who's prepared to live with Kate Moss."*



Puppy love: Kate Moss

Dumfreeze

A SCOTTISH castle which has taken all that the elements could throw at it over seven centuries might seem the place to sit out blizzards. But the Duke of Buccleuch, whose family was reportedly given Drumlanrig Castle in Dumfriesshire by Robert the Bruce in 1300, is having a disagreeable time.

There was a power cut yesterday forcing Europe's biggest landowner, wheelchair-bound since a hunting accident, to huddle up to a coal fire by candlelight.

"It's bitterly cold. Down to minus 14 degrees last night and not a lot of fun," quivered an ancient retainer who couldn't get through to His Grace, holed up as he was in another wing of the baronial hall where the phone lines were down. "We've nae had any heating, but the coal fires are going now and it's making a wee difference."

Bag in hand

THE QUEEN behaved with the exemplary manners of a middle-class daughter on Christmas Day outside church at Sandringham. She didn't give two hoots for her appearance in front of the heaving throng of journalists, and pottered happily about with two handbags on her left arm.

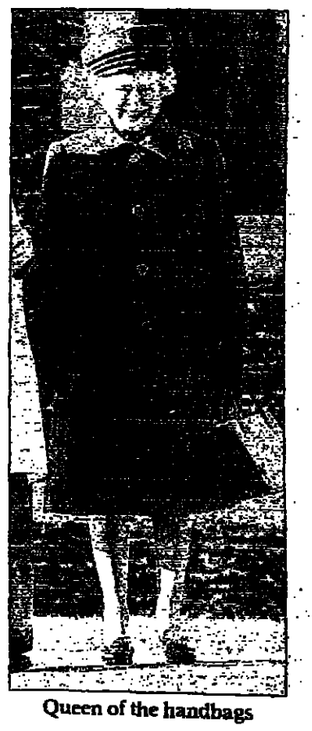
One bag was hers, while the other belonged to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, whose two hands were taken up with walking sticks after her recent hip operation. Buckingham Palace refuses to identify which bag belongs to which queen.

There were ungallant suggestions yesterday that the bag-carrying role might be a Princess of Wales-style attempt to exploit the sympathy of the lower classes — everybody would identify with a daughter who carried her frail mum's handbag.

A more plausible explanation comes from the etiquette expert and author of *Modern Manners*, Drusilla Beyfus: "Handbaggery is a very important part of royal iconography," she said.

"The Queen and her mother are very very rarely separated from their handbags. Ladies-in-waiting take parcels when Her Majesty goes shopping but they are never entrusted with handbags."

P·H·S



Queen of the handbags

CHRISTMAS CHILL

No seasonal cheer for Scottish Hydro-Electric

The Scots are a stoical breed. Used to weather that would make a southerner blanch, they have met the past few days' blizzards with remarkable equanimity. Even in the Shetland and Western Isles, where some have been without electricity for five days, there is a general determination to soldier on. But a new dimension has crept into public discussion north of the border. If anyone but God is to blame for the freezing conditions, it is the privatised electricity company, Scottish Hydro-Electric.

Yesterday Calum MacDonald, Labour MP for the Western Isles, blamed staff cuts at Scottish Hydro for the slowness of the company's response to power cuts. The company has replied by claiming that, of the 20,000 customers who lost their electricity on Christmas Day, 17,000 had it restored by the evening. The problem for the remaining 3,000 was not lack of engineers, but the impossibility of gaining access to remote areas cut off by snow.

Many of those who suffered power cuts had no other source of energy to rely upon. To have one's electricity cut off on Christmas Day, even if only for a day, is enough to test the festive spirit. The prospect of cold sandwiches in a freezing house instead of piping turkey in a warm kitchen would destroy most people's Christmas cheer. But until recently, they would have put the power failure down to bad luck and bad weather.

The difference now lies in the changed ownership of the utility companies. It is hard to feel public-spirited about a company in private hands. When the utility companies were publicly owned, their managers found it relatively easy to invoke a sense of civic duty about, for instance, saving water during a drought. Now customers look at the huge salary increases of the directors, the burgeoning profits and the booming dividends and wonder why they should have to make a sacrifice to line the pockets of managers and shareholders. The moral authority that once was there has been lost.

Companies such as Scottish Hydro or Yorkshire Water bemoan their fate. They point out that this is the worst weather on the Shetland Isles for 40 years; and the summer in England was the driest since 1727. No supplier should be expected to achieve miracles. Moreover, their services have improved significantly since privatisation. They seem to win no credit, only blame.

Yet the managers of these utilities cannot escape blame for the way in which they are perceived by the public. Since being privatised, they have retained all the arrogance of nationalised industry bosses, while paying themselves the salaries of large private company managers. At Scottish Hydro, the highest-paid director before privatisation earned £50,000; within three years his salary had risen to £231,000, an increase of 362 per cent. At the same time, the company was asking its staff to accept pay cuts.

Private companies cannot expect their customers to suffer in silence. In most sectors, customers can simply move their business to a competitor. With monopoly suppliers, they have no choice, so the only outlet for their fury is vocal complaint. Utility directors can, however, assuage this anger. A combination of humility, contrition and, for the worst affected, financial compensation would warm the hearts of the most frozen islanders. Such an offer has yet to be made.

BONE-HEADED CHINA

Peking ignores Hong Kong's Democrats at its peril

Peking's allies in Hong Kong like to refer to 1996 as the "year of decision". They are right — for China as well as for Hong Kong's people. Hong Kong is a territory whose prosperity depends to an exceptionally high degree on confidence, an intangible quality which can evaporate overnight. With only 18 months to go before the colony is handed over, Peking's every move from now on will be warily scrutinised.

China has $25 billion invested in Hong Kong, half its exports go through it, and the wealth produced by this community of only six million people is equivalent to a quarter of China's GDP. A wisely governed China would do everything possible to guard the secrets of Hong Kong's success.

Instead, towards Hong Kong as towards Taiwan, Peking persists in a needlessly and foolishly aggressive stance which has begun to worry even its close associates in Hong Kong. In September, it treated Hong Kong's first free legislative elections, in which Democrats won nearly half the seats, with hostility and contempt. So much for the pledge that "Hong Kong people will rule Hong Kong". In October, it made known its decision to emasculate Hong Kong's Bill of Rights in 1997 and to reinstate laws recently amended or scrapped in order to comply with the Bill's provisions on civil rights.

Today China is due to announce the membership of the 150-member Preparatory Committee, its chosen vehicle for handling the delicate business of the transition. To this committee, chaired by Qian Qichen, the Chinese Foreign Minister, China has assigned decisions of the first importance. It is to advise on laws to be amended or repealed in 1997, including the Bill of Rights. It will appoint an electoral college of 400 Hong Kong citizens, which in turn will designate a Chief Executive to take over from the Governor, Chris Patten, in 1997. On the assumption that Peking unwisely persists in its decision to disband Hong Kong's democratically elected legislative bodies in 1997, the Preparatory Committee will also appoint a provisional legislature to serve until new elections are held, under a more restricted franchise, at an unspecified date.

These considerations ought logically to have prompted China to appoint a genuinely representative body, trusted to do the best for Hong Kong. Instead, it has indicated that more than a third will be mainland Chinese — and that not one of Hong Kong's Democrats will be included. The point will not be lost on the thousands of civil servants, lawyers, teachers and members of the police force who are anxiously weighing their prospects under a new administration.

Businessmen will not wait until midnight on June 30, 1997 to decide whether they are confident that the rule of law will continue to be impartially upheld. Some are already moving the legal domicile of their companies elsewhere. Nervousness is not limited to Western companies. Earlier this month Larry Yung, son of a Chinese Vice-President and the chairman of Citic, Peking's giant investment flagship in Hong Kong, stated bluntly and publicly that there was widespread ignorance in Peking about Hong Kong. China, he added, "could kill Hong Kong" by interfering directly, or by appointing an administration that "bent over backwards" to accommodate its wishes. Citing "real concern" about spreading corruption, he called on Hong Kong's people to "stand up" for the autonomy which China is formally pledged to respect.

Eighteen months from now, the world's cameras will be trained on Hong Kong. On present trends, they are likely to find its elected leaders thrown out of office, its laws in turmoil and its ablest citizens departed or poised for flight. China's wary old men refuse to listen to Hong Kong's voters, who have made the place what it is. But they should at least pay heed to Larry Yung: he speaks from the heart of the Chinese élite.

FAMILY AFFAIRS

For those born under the sign of Cancer, this should be one of the pleasantest seasons of the year. The particular predilections of this sign are well-catered for by what ought to be the real meaning of the Christmas spirit. For Cancerians are regarded as the most devoted family members in the zodiac spectrum. Their reputed virtues are sympathy, compassion and care for the feelings of others. Perhaps unfortunately for their own peace of mind, these traits are said to be offset by a tendency toward hypersensitivity and something of a preference for emotion over reason as a guide to action.

This picture seems to apply in many respects to the most prominent Cancerian in the land: the Princess of Wales. Her demonstrable concern for the suffering and troubles of other people — and her particular interest in children — are remarkably consistent with the traditional depiction of the Cancerian character. But what goes along with these personality traits is what astrologers describe as a deep need for emotional security and an unwillingness to forget slights: inclinations that could well influence the Princess's future as much as her desire to relieve others' pain.

Official astrological advice to Cancerians for 1996 is to concentrate on their long-term status and recognition, counsel which the Princess will probably need little encouragement to heed. It does not seem inconceivable that other well-known Cancerians such as Nelson Mandela, Sir Edward Heath and Lord Owen will also be attending to their long-term public reputations.

But it is private life more than public stature that is thought to be the pivot of Cancerian existence, with the family being its primary focus. As this is, above all, the season of the family — the celebration of a holy one as well as the gathering of so many ordinary ones — it seems an appropriate time to appreciate the concerns associated with the sign of Cancer.

The urge to nurture and to give emotional support to others are traits that successful family life requires. Not that the reuniting of extended families at Christmas is always joyous. Readers may feel that, with its stresses and occasional tedium, a family Christmas has demanded all the Cancerian virtues that could be mustered.

The predictions for Cancer for the coming year may be of interest to many of the prominent Cancerians in public life. People born under this sign are promised greater professional responsibility and major transformations in their health. The Princess of Wales particularly may be intrigued to hear that there is likely to be a major change in her domestic sphere. But perhaps the aspect of Cancer that is most pertinent for everyone at this time of year was implied in the Christmas message of the Archbishop of Canterbury: that all births are miraculous and all families, however much at war, are sacred.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Embassies' role in export success

From Sir Ralph Robins, Chairman of Rolls-Royce

Sir, At a time when the budgets and manpower of government departments are clearly under pressure, there is one important area of government activity which I very much hope will be exempted from reduction.

As one of the UK's largest exporters, with over 70 per cent of our turnover going to overseas markets, Rolls-Royce plc draws significantly on the services provided by the commercial departments of our embassies and high commissions and by the FCO and DTI in London. The quality of these services has improved in recent years with overseas posts showing a good understanding of commercial priorities. The support they provide often represents an important ingredient in the successful outcome of an export campaign.

As competition in world markets intensifies, foreign governments are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of maintaining effective representation for their exporters. To respond to this threat, it is essential that the FCO and DTI maintain their highly successful network of support and are not tempted in the interest of short-term economies to sacrifice the export performance of this country.

Yours faithfully,
RALPH ROBINS,
Chairman,
Rolls-Royce plc,
65 Buckingham Gate, SW1.
December 21.

Having a go

From Mr Francis Bennion

Sir, You report (December 12) that the Home Secretary has asked the police and the Crown Prosecution Service to treat any "have-a-go" hero more sympathetically. His interference is unconstitutional.

The British constitution entrusts the Attorney-General, not the Home Secretary, with the oversight of prosecution policy as guardian of the public interest. For very good reason, the exercise of the prosecutive power is constitutionally separate from the exercise of the executive, legislative, and judicial powers.

Some functionaries, notably the police, are regarded as part of the executive. Others, namely the courts, exercise the judicial power of the State. Prosecution policy stands apart. That is a vital safeguard, which Mr Howard should respect. It means that governments cannot decide whom they wish to try or courts decide who shall appear before them.

The Attorney-General, in his capacity as guardian, is supposed to stand aloof from the executive. Why has he not stood out against the Home Secretary's presumptuousness?

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
54a Nicodemou Mylona Street,
Limassol 3095, Cyprus.
December 19.

HMSO sale

From Mr C. J. Rees

Sir, The proposal to privatise Her Majesty's Stationery Office (report, December 14) fills me with foreboding.

Fifteen years ago I would have welcomed it, for then HMSO was an inefficient and neolithic organisation, relieved only by the individual capabilities of people within it. In the intervening period its management has developed its potential to the extent that it is now by far the most efficient of the publishers I deal with.

Government departments are already free to seek tenders in the private sector for the production and distribution of their publications. That HMSO retains much of their business must speak volumes for the high standards it maintains.

I can see little advantage in selling HMSO into the private sector unless the Government wishes to see its publications reduced to the level of mediocrity which we all too frequently encounter in the large publishing houses. Multiplying the sources for government publications can only add to the problems that librarians and booksellers already encounter and which in turn lead to the citizen being unable to have access to the very information which government seeks to disseminate.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REES,
John Rees Rare Books,
242 Merton Road, SW18.

Note of caution

From Mr Nigel à Brassard

Sir, I think it is insulting, if understandable, that cashiers often subject bank notes to verification checks in front of me. Is it acceptable to ask them to verify the notes that they hand back as change?

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL à BRASSARD,
46 Stanford Road, Kensington, W8.
December 22.

Business letters, page 25

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Support for courts-martial system

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Whatever qualifications the European Commission of Human Rights may have had for the opinion that the British court-martial system had denied Alex Findlay "a fair and public hearing before an independent and impartial tribunal" (report, December 19), experience of its working was not one of them.

I had experience of the court-martial system from 1940 when, as a subaltern, I was ordered to take summaries of evidence, until 1986, when I retired, having been a member of the Courts-Martial Appeal Court since 1961. I became convinced then, and still am, that those who are tried by courts martial get as fair trials as those who are tried by juries, sometimes fairer.

During those years I never had cause to think that the practice of general officers commanding convening courts martial and nominating their members had led to injustice; nor do I remember anyone suggesting that it lacked the appearance of justice. Perhaps it might do if the convening officer had started his military career in the same regiment as an officer accused, whom he may have known. This is likely to be rare and can easily be avoided.

It is to be hoped that both the Government and Parliament will resist any implications which may arise from the judgment of the Court of Human Rights. Changes in the court-martial system may be necessary. If they are, they should be based on the experience of those who have to work it, not on the reasoning of continental lawyers that it cannot provide those accused with a fair trial when it does.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village,
Skelton, York.
December 20.

Calculating the standard of maths

From Sir Wilfred Cockcroft

Sir, Professor Emeritus Anthony Ralston (letter, December 13) quotes a sentence from my committee of inquiry's report concerning the use of calculators and its effect on computational ability. That sentence, out of context, naturally raises concerns among other correspondents (letters, December 18, 19, 21). They should know that it is part of a long section in the report concerning evidence we had received and arguments made to us about calculators and their use in schools.

The paragraph from which the sentence comes opens:

It is (also) clear that there is widespread public concern about the use of calculators by children who have not yet mastered the traditional pencil and paper methods of computation. It is feared that children who use calculators too early will not acquire fluency in computation nor confident recall of basic number facts. These fears are understandable and should not be ignored.

After a summary of research evidence available at the time of writing, the paragraph ends:

From all the studies the weight of evidence is strong that the use of calculators has not produced any adverse effect on basic computational ability. We believe that this is important and should be better known both to teachers and to the public at large. Nevertheless, it remains incumbent upon those who teach mathematics to ensure that the development of appropriate skills of mental and written calculation is not neglected. Nor should a school overlook the need to make parents aware of its policy in regard to the use of calculators by pupils.

Yours faithfully,
WILFRED COCKCROFT,
The Old Rectory,
Warmington,
Banbury, Oxfordshire.
December 22.

From Dr Julia Matthews

Sir, Neither the use, misuse nor non-use of calculators is the main cause of poor maths standards.

An over-crowded curriculum for the early years results in less time allowed for assimilation and for sound foundations to be laid.

Yours etc,
JULIA MATTHEWS,
50 Sydney Road,
Bexleyheath, Kent.
December 21.

Tax on wheat

From the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Sir, On December 20 you published a letter from Mr R. B. Coles complaining that the European Commission had imposed a tax on wheat exports. I have been pressing for this and only wish it had been done sooner.

The normal state of affairs is that grain prices in the Community are kept well above world prices for the benefit of cereal farmers but to the disadvantage of consumers — who, of course, include other farmers. Taxpayers also lose because they have to subsidise the export of the Community's large surplus at the world price.

For once, the world price has risen above the intended producer price. Surely in this situation both the consumer and the taxpayer should get some return for all the costs they normally bear, by ensuring that the market price is held *below* the world price. This is exactly what an export tax brings about. The tax is simply the mirror image of the subsidy that is paid in the normal case.

In effect Mr Coles is arguing that the cereals grower within the Community ought to get — and the consumer ought to pay — the Community's support price for cereals or the world price, whichever is the higher. I disagree: the first of these prices is quite high enough already.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HOGG,
Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food,
Whitehall Place, SW1.
December 21.

NHS charges

From Dr Lionel Kreeger

Sir, I recently wrote to a general practitioner colleague after a consultation with one of his patients, requesting some details about her previous medical care. I received photocopies of relevant notes, with an invoice for £7.23 and a demand for settlement by return of post.

The general practitioner's practice manager assured me that this was now their standard procedure, and the British Medical Association confirmed that it has become an acceptable development.

After 46 years in medical practice, I find it distasteful. None of my 15 colleagues has had a similar experience.

Yours sincerely,
LIONEL KREEGER,
The Group-Analytic Practice,
88 Montague Mansions, W1.
December 20.

Left in the lurch

From Mr M. A. Jarrett

Sir, I recently purchased a product described as a "self-assembly bird table". When I got it home I released it from its plastic bag and spread it out on the floor. I then sat back to watch it perform the amazing feat of self-assembly, but nothing happened.

I later realised that I had not read out to it the instructions enclosed in the box, nor provided it with a small screwdriver, which they assured me was the only tool needed. It still stubbornly lies there in a dozen pieces.

Is there some special phrase which I have to utter before it will spring together? Or will it suddenly come to life in the new year, like my daffodils?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL A. JARRETT,
68 Tower Hill,
Williton, Taunton, Somerset.
December 22.

Lane discipline

From Mr Nitin A. Kibe

Sir, I disagree with Dr Aileen K. Adams (letter, December 16) about American drivers and lane discipline. In my experience they are notorious for *not* practising it but many live to tell the tale because speeds are almost absurdly low.

The interstate highways have a large safety buffer because of surplus capacity (local and temporary shortages in Los Angeles and at rush hours apart).

Drivers have been conditioned into over-compliance with posted limits at the cost of virtually every other rule for safe superhighway driving. They are taught that nobody is entitled to travel faster than the posted limit. Cases of their enforcing the limit by blocking others are common and widely tolerated by traffic police.

Americans typically "do the limit" in any lane and refuse to yield, setting up a rolling roadblock and forcing faster traffic to weave.

Perhaps things will change now that the 20-year-old 55mph limit has been abolished, however reversing some of the bad driving habits which it spawned will take time.

Yours etc,
NITIN KIBE,
2007 Lorraine Avenue,
McLean, Virginia 22101.
December 18.

Road manners

From Mr S. W. G. Pettigrew

Sir, I recently returned from a "fly-drive" holiday in South Africa. I noticed their car drivers' pleasant acknowledgement to another's act of courtesy (such as pulling over to ease overtaking). This is customarily done by a double flash of the car hazard indicator.

In this season of goodwill to all perhaps we in this country should try it. Such an obvious act of old-world manners might even ameliorate the growing "motorway madness".

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PETTIGREW,
The Folly,
Folly Road, Lambourn, Berkshire.
December 18.

Mysteries of the Magi's star

From Mr Ian Ridpath

Sir, Andrew Bamji (letter, December 23) has successfully spotted the ambiguity in the Biblical phrase "we have seen his star in the east", attributed to the Wise Men. As Dr Bamji correctly notes, the Wise Men were in the east, probably somewhere in the vicinity of present-day Baghdad, while the star was in the west. With this information, we can begin to identify a possible celestial cause of the Star of Bethlehem with more certainty.

King Herod died shortly after an eclipse of the Moon, most likely the total eclipse in January in the year 1 BC, and Christ's birth would have preceded this. In June of 2 BC the two brightest planets, Venus and Jupiter, moved into line with each other in the astrologically symbolic constellation of Leo, the lion. As seen from the Middle East, Venus and Jupiter would have appeared as a single object of dazzling intensity in the western evening sky on the evening of June 17.

This explanation, first published some fifteen years ago in *Sky & Telescope* magazine, has curiously been overlooked by British astronomers, despite the fact that it would have been the most astounding celestial event of the era, one that no Wise Man worth his salt could have overlooked.

Yours faithfully,
IAN RIDPATH,
48 Otho Court, Brentford, Middlesex.

From Canon Michael Saward

Sir, In the annual agonising over the Bethlehem Star I cannot recall anyone mentioning the reason for the development of the legendary features as distinct from the essential heart of the matter.

According to the Bible, the pagan prophet Balaam had a vision, soon after the Exodus, in which "I look into the future and see the nation of Israel. A king, like a bright star, will arise in that nation. Like a comet he will come". After Christ's resurrection, the apostle John also had a vision in which the glorified Jesus calls himself "the bright star". Twenty years later, the early Christian martyr-bishop Ignatius of Antioch, writing of Christ's birth to a virgin, speaks of "an indescribably bright star, outshining sun, moon, and stars".

Since the nativity stories of Luke and Matthew never mention "a bright star", and no one else seems to have seen it, surely the key is to be found by looking for the "bright star" in, and not over, the manger.

The Magi's star, significant only to them, pointed to the true bright star who had been born in Bethlehem. Later-day legends, in cards and carols, have wrecked the real meaning and set us all looking in the wrong direction. Sadly, the churches have followed the same wild-star chase, failing to see that their endorsement of the legends has damaged the credibility of the whole nativity record.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD,
6 Amen Court, EC4.

Time was when . . .

From Mr Patrick Howarth

Sir, One of the problems of growing old is difficulty in understanding people deemed to be representative of our times.

A decade or so ago such a person was likely to live in a rural area called a neck of the woods, which was surrounded by parameters. Here he or she was much concerned with the nitty-gritty, particularly at the end of the day.

Now his or her successor seems to eat or hear phenomena called soundbites, in settings said to be, basically, state of the art, while waiting for judgment to be conferred along something known as the bottom line.

Yours in bewilderment,
PATRICK HOWARTH,
Flat 2, Pencarrow,
The Avenue, Sherborne, Dorset.

Clerical collars

From the Reverend Father B. J. Eager

Sir, Clerical collars (letters, December 23) can be manufactured easily and cheaply from old washing-up liquid bottles. With the aid of reasonably sharp scissors they can be made to fit almost any size of neck or style of modern shirt.

I have worn one such home-made collar the wrong way round so that the name of the washing-up liquid was visible and either nobody noticed or they were too polite to mention it.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD EAGER,
St Catherine of Siena Church,
Newton Road, Lowton, Warrington.

Mark II mankind

From Sir George Engle, QC

Sir, I think it was T. H. Huxley, the great Victorian comparative anatomist, who, when asked what changes he would make if redesigning the human frame (report, December 22), replied that he would move the mouth to the top of the head so that he could put his lunch in his top hat and eat it walking along.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE ENGLE,
32 Wood Lane, Highgate, N6.
December 22.

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Air Commodore Molly Allott, former director, WRAF, 77; Mr W.A. Camps, former Master, Pembroke College, Cambridge, 85; Mr D.B. Carr, cricketer, 69; Miss Madeleine Craggs, secretary, Imperial Cancer *Research* Fund, 50; Mr T.W. Gould, VC, 81; Mr Max Hastings, Editor-elect, *Evening Standard*, 50; Mr Roy Hattersley, MP, 63; Professor F.P. Kelly, statistician, 45; Mr Nigel Kennedy, violinist, 39; Mr Martin Llowarch, *chairman, Transport* Development Group, 60; Mr Michael J.P. Marks, deputy chairman, Merrill Lynch, 54; Mr Michael Marland, educationist, 61; Mrs Frances Morrell, former leader, ILEA, 58; Sir Patrick O'Connor, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 81; Mrs Bridget Prentice, MP, 43; Mr Simon Raven, author and dramatist, 68; Mrs Joan Ruddock, MP, 52; Dame Maggie Smith, actress, 61; Mr Denzel Washington, actor, 41; the Right Rev W.J. Westwood, Bishop of Peterborough, 70; the Hon Geoffrey Wilson, former chairman, Delta Group, 66; the Marquess of Zetland, 58.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Alexander Keith Johnston, geographer, Penicuik, 1804; Samuel Phillips, journalist, 1814; Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28th American President 1913-21, Staunton, Virginia, 1856; Pio Baroja y Nessi, novelist, San Sebastian, Spain, 1872; Sir Arthur Eddington, astronomer, Kendal, Cumbria, 1882.

DEATHS: St Francis de Sales, Doctor of the Church, 1622; Queen Mary II, reigned with King William III 1689-94, London, 1694; Pierre Bayle, philosopher, 1706; Thomas Babington Macaulay, 1st Baron Macaulay, poet, historian and statesman, London, 1859; George Gissing, novelist, St-Jean de Luz, France, 1903; Maurice Ravel, composer, Paris, 1937; Theodore Dreiser, novelist, Hollywood, 1945; Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy 1900-46, Egypt, 1947; Jack Lovelock, surgeon, Olympic 1500m gold medallist 1936, killed in an accident, New York, 1949; Paul Hindemith, composer, Frankfurt am Main, 1963.

The Tay Bridge collapsed into the river below, 1879.

The first weather reports relayed by wireless telegraphy were published in London, 1904.

Appointments in the Forces

The Army

LIEUTENANT COLONEL: J W Blair, RA CH D, to 1(UK) Armd Div, 29.12.95.

Retirements:

BRIGADIER: T Longland, late R Anglian, 31.12.95; W B Stevens, late RA, 1.1.96.

COLONEL: J C W Williams, late RWF, 1.1.96; R E Potts, late RADC, 31.12.95.

Legal appointments

Mr Roger John Laugharne Thomas, QC, to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

Mr Nicolas John Mitchell to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

Miss Caroline Sarah Raymond *Tubbs to be a Metropolitan Stipendiary* Magistrate from January 22.

Retirement

The Hon Mr Justice Gatehouse will retire as a judge of the High Court (Queen's Bench Division) on January 10.

Latest wills

Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Covernton **Selby**, of Duncote, Towcester, Northamptonshire, the horseman and showjumper, left estate valued at £130,112 net.

Mr Timothy Oliver **Parker**, of London SW3, left estate valued at *£9,264,929* net.

Mr Harold Ernest Lawrence **Hilbert**, of Cheam, Surrey, left estate valued at £4,059,661 net.

Cecilie Elisabeth Fearnley **Longton**, of Burghclere, Hampshire, left estate valued at £3,234,101 net.

Lord Borrie

The life barony conferred upon Sir Gordon Johnson Borrie, QC, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Borrie, of Abbots Morton in the County of Hereford and Worcester.

Church in Wales

Diocese of St Asaph

The Rev Malcolm Squires, currently Vicar of Mirfield in the Diocese of Wakefield, to be Rector of the Rectorial Benefice of Wrexham in the Diocese of St Asaph.

University news

Manchester

Appointments to Chairs

Henry Charles Kitchener, at *present Consultant* Obstetrician and Gynaecologist with a Special Interest in Oncology to the Aberdeen Royal Hospitals and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Gynaecological Oncology in the University of Aberdeen, to be Professor of Gynaecological Oncology, from April 1, 1996.

Ian James Stratford, at present Head of Experimental Oncology at the MRC Radiobiology Unit, Chilton, Didcot, to be Professor of Pharmacy in the Department of Pharmacy, *from January* 1, 1996.

Michael James Dixon, at present Reader in Dental Genetics in the School of Biological Sciences and the Department of Dental Medicine and Surgery, to be Professor of Dental Genetics (in the same departments), from Jan 1, 1996.

Kevin Donald O'Brien, at present Senior Lecturer in *Orthodontics at the university*, to be Professor of Orthodontics in the Department of Dental Medicine and Surgery, from January 1, 1996.

Martin James Humphries to be Wellcome Trust Professorial Research Fellow in Biochemistry from a date to be arranged.

William Duncan to be Honorary Professor of Radiation Oncology in the Department of Oncology from September 1, 1995 to August 31, 1998.

Appointments

Wiebke Gertrude Brockhaus to be Lecturer in German Linguistics in the Department of German Language and Literature.

Stuart Campbell to be Lecturer in Archaeology.

Duncan Howard Carter to be Lecturer in Dental Sciences (in lieu of Experimental Officer) in the Department of Dental Medicine and Surgery.

Jacqueline Ohanian to be Lecturer in Cardiovascular Medicine (in succession to Research Associate in the Department of Medicine).



DOUG MARKE

A helper supervises children playing at the community enterprise centre on the Austin Estate, Derby

Making up for the planners' mistakes

BY JOHN YOUNG

IN THE MIDDLE of the sprawling Austin Estate, on the southern fringes of Derby, is a small and not readily explainable example of how planners go wrong. The Browning Circle is a rotunda of a dozen or so shops intended for the convenience of residents who might have been expected to patronise them regularly; instead for some reason they were shunned and three quarters of them are empty and boarded up.

In these unpromising surroundings a new "community *enterprise centre" has been* established, and in a bare nine months has made impressive strides.

A former Co-op store, empty for 17 years, has been renovated and redecorated as a bright, welcoming "surgery" where local people can come for advice on housing problems, financial difficulties, welfare rights and even disputes with theirneighbours.

The person largely responsible for getting the project off the ground is Carl Taylor, a former railwayman, who gained experience in social work when he became involved in a number of church projects and who works part-time for the Third Wave centre, a similar but longer established scheme in an inner area of the city, which has provided support and advice. *Its genesis was a successful* bid by Derby City Council for government renovation funds, which led to the formation of a residents' group invited to come up with a plan for tackling the estate's problems.



Suzanne Cliff, the project's development officer

On the surface the area does not appear to be deprived, *consisting mainly of* semi-detached and terraced housing which, at the insistence of the former owner who gave the land to the council and after whom the estate is named, is linked by quiet, winding roads bordered by lawns and hedges. It could be almost anywhere in suburbia.

But a survey unearthed familiar complaints such as *unemployment; crime and* fear of crime, particularly among the elderly; low incomes; a lack of training and education opportunities; and a lack of facilities for young people. To those Mr Taylor adds his own observation that two generations of excessive local authority paternal*ism has bred a dependency* culture, in which people have become unused to taking initiatives to improve their own lives.

The first modest steps to engage people in running more of their own affairs include the establishment of five new neighbourhood *watches*, the reopening of a youth club, a garden tool hire service to encourage people to *maintain and improve their* surroundings, a "befriending" service for old people and the provision of after-school child care services for working mothers. The centre itself also includes a rapidly growing lending library.

More ambitious plans include training and education, *including vocational courses* in business management and information technology, to *build up people's confidence* and help them into employment. The centre is hoping to negotiate a long lease on a spacious and well-equipped nearby building owned by a hospital trust but now considered surplus to needs.

The obvious dynamism of the project has attracted funding from both the city council and the Government, including the salary of a full-time *development worker*, Suzanne Cliff. More than 40 people attended the first annual general meeting on an estate where only a few months ago, according to Mr Taylor, it would have been difficult to attract even four or five people to a public meeting.

"Already we can see a dramatic change in people's readiness to speak out, contribute ideas and communicate," he says. "They are shedding their apathy and starting to see that things can change."

"*There is a buzz.*" Mrs Cliff adds. "People who are disadvantaged have got used to *waiting for something to hap*pen, but they come here and see that things can be made to happen. I like to think we are bridging the gap between people and authority. A lot of people are afraid of authority and we hope they can learn to lose that fear."

The Austin Community Enterprise Advice Centre is one of the winners of the 1995 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times *and Touche Ross.*

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J. Bouckley
and Miss S.E. Herd
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr John Bouckley, of New York and the Hon Mrs Moelwyn Healy, of West Fenton, East Lothian, and Sally, daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles Herd, of Gullane, East Lothian.

Mr S.A. Brydon
and Miss J.M. Prosser
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of the late W.R.C. Brydon and of Mrs J.M. Brydon, of Edinburgh, and Joanna, daughter of the Hon Lord and Lady Prosser, *also of* Edinburgh.

Mr S.J. Davies
and Miss M.C. Loder
The engagement is announced between Stephen John, son of Mr and Mrs T. Davies, of Llanelli, Dyfed, and Mary Charlotte, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Loder, of Lower Beeding, West Sussex.

Mr S.G.V. Hill
and Miss H.V. Southall
The engagement is announced between Simon Guy *Valdimir, son* of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hill, of Frisby-on-the-Wreake, Leicestershire, and Helen Valerie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Walter Southall, of Prestwich, Manchester.

Mr T. Fritzlaff
and Miss L. Turner
The engagement is announced between Tony, son of Mr and Mrs *Robert Fritzlaff*, of Melbourne, Australia, and Lucy, daughter of Mr Gavin Turner, of Bath, and Mrs Jane Knight, of London.

Mr G.N. McBain
and Miss S.E. Benyon
The engagement is announced between Neville, elder son of Mr and Mrs George McBain, of Lower Woodshaw Farm, Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, and Susannah, youngest daughter of Sir William and Lady Benyon, of Englefield House, Englefield, Berkshire.

Mr H.R. Rivington
and Miss J.K. Jensen
The engagement is announced between Hugh, younger son of Mr Christopher Rivington and the late Mrs Irene Anne Rivington, of *Hitcham*, Suffolk, and Julia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Jensen, of Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire.

Mr D.J. Zuill
and Miss G.L. Robertson
The engagement is announced between Donald, son of Mr and Mrs Morison Zuill, of Falkirk, Scotland, and Gail, daughter of the late Jim Robertson and of Mrs *Frances Robertson*, of Toronto, Canada.

Ancient city reveals more of its secrets

BY NORMAN HAMMOND, *ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT*

THE international campaign to shed new light on ancient Aksum, once called "the last of the great civilisations of antiquity to be revealed to modern knowledge", has yielded striking results. Tombs and monuments have been excavated both within the city of *Aksum* itself, in the northern highlands of Ethiopia, and on the hills outside, indicating a larger ceremonial area than initially thought.

In addition, remains of *tef*, the staple cereal of modern Ethiopia, have been found for the first time in an ancient context, suggesting that it could have already been important nearly 2,000 years ago.

Based on the Tigre plateau north of the headwaters of the Blue Nile, 350 miles from Addis Ababa, the Aksumite kingdom linked South Arabia and Somalia with Nubia and the southern frontiers of Roman Egypt. The kingdom flourished for most of the first millennium AD, and imports from the Roman Empire have been among the recent finds.

*The impressive granite ste*lae, monoliths up to 100ft high and elaborately carved, were first recorded by a German expedition in 1906, but further work only took place after the Second World War, when the British Institute in East Africa began several years of excavation. Dr David Phillipson, of Cambridge University, is continuing the tradition.: his team left in October for their third season.

"We have already investigated major tombs in the *centre*, and *now* we will continue work in the domestic occupation area, with an emphasis on recovering information about the food-producing economy of ancient Aksum," Dr Phillipson said. An Italo-American project has already *successfully* recovered seeds of *tef* from layers dated to AD 400-700, as well as wheat and barley.

"Tef is one of the principal crops *in Ethiopia today*, used for *enjira*, the pancake-like bread eaten at every meal," Professor Julie Hansen, of Boston University, said. "Despite its intensive use now, we know very little about where and when it was first domesticated".

"The grains are minute, only about a millimetre across, and there are many wild types. If these grains *prove to be of the domesticated* type, it will be the first evidence for the ancient cultivation of this important crop."

The *tef* was found during excavations on the hill of Bieta Giyorgys, where tombs, stone stelae, and occupation areas have been found by Professors Kathryn Bard and Rodolfo Fattovich.

Dr Phillipson's project will explore the thesis that Aksum *first prospered by exploiting* such indigenous resources, before taking control of gold and ivory sources and becoming one of the great trading centres of the ancient world.

The British team will also continue to explore the great platform underlying the existing Cathedral of Maryam Tsion: although much of the church was rebuilt after destruction in 1535, they have found that part of the older building was incorporated into the new structure. The *podium on which it stands* dates back to the Aksumite period, but what sort of building stood on it is not yet known.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

The Lord God has given me the tongue of one who has been instructed to console the weary with a timely word: he made my hearing sharp every morning that I might listen.
Isaiah 50 : 4 (REB)

BIRTHS

CARLESS - On 20th December 1995, to Fee (née Hopkinson) and Jim, a daughter, Natasha Louise, a sister for Alexander and Matthew.

CARTER - On December 22nd 1995, to Louise (née Lomax) and Charles, a son, James Francis Philip.

CLARK - On 23rd December 1995, at Aberdeen Hospital, to Gary and Lynn, a daughter, Zoe.

de Voglé - On December 23rd 1995 to Jeanne and Melchior, a son Alexandre.

GAY - On December 23rd, 1995 in Berlin, to Serena (née Sellars) and Nicholas, a son Edmund Charles Sellars.

GUMPERT - On December *17th, to Dorothee* (née Fabers) and Benjamin, a son, Frederick John.

LOMONOSSOFF - To Nancy and Nicholas at Ottawa, Canada, a daughter, Natasha Anna born 19th December 1995.

RHODES - On 26th December 1995 to Lorrain (née Muller-Howat) and Graham, a daughter, Fenella Margaret Alexandra.

VOLLER - On Christmas Eve at East Surrey Hospital, to Joanna (née Morgan) and Mike, a daughter, Lucy Alice Clare.

DEATHS

BAGLEY - Maurice Cresswell on Christmas Eve, aged 87, at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, after a five week illness borne with no word of complaint. Devoted husband of the late Sally Bailey (née King), horseman and sportsman of the old school and and a good friend to many. Funeral at St Mary's, Duffingham, Nr Newmarket, on Thursday, January 4th at 11.45 am, followed by lunch at the King's Head. Flowers welcome to: H J Paintin Ltd., 43 High Street, Linton, Cambridgeshire CB1 6HS, tel: (01223) 891256.

DEATHS

BEADLE - On December 27th in hospital, Jeremy aged 39 years. Beloved brother of Jo. Loving uncle to Richard and James. Cherished nephew of Florence and brother-in-law to Peter. Funeral Service at The Church of the Annunciation Bryanston *Street, London W1, on* Thursday January 4th 1996, at 12 noon followed by private cremation. Flowers to Leverton & Sons Ltd, *Funeral Directors*, 212 Eversholt Street, London NW1 by 10 am. Enquiries tel: (0171) 387 6076.

BEKAERT - On December 22nd 1995, John aged 67 years. Beloved husband of Eileen and father of Suzy and David. Cremation Tuesday January 2nd at Breakspear Crematorium at 1pm. Family flowers only but if desired donations payable to: Dr Maher Cancer Research, c/o James Peddle Ltd., 66 High Street, Rickmansworth. Tel: (01923) 772013.

BENNETT-JONES - Noreen, on Christmas Day peacefully aged 87 years. Funeral Service at All Hallows Parish Church, Allerton Road, Liverpool, on Thursday 4th January at 2.45pm. No flowers please, but donations may be made in lieu for the Toxteth Day Centre, c/o The Pearson Collinson Funeral *Service, 91 Allerton* Road, Liverpool L18 2DD. Tel: 0151 722 1514.

BIELBY - Peacefully in St. Catherines Hospice Scarborough, on 23rd December 1995, Lesley Ann in her 50th Year. Of Pickering, North Yorkshire. *A treasured wife of* Derek. Funeral Service at St. Peter and St.Paul Church Pickering on Friday 29th December at 2.00pm followed by burial. No flowers by request but donations if desired may be sent to The Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o R.H. Barnes Funeral Directors, Albert Cottage, Outgang Road, Pickering, YO18 7EL.

BROCKBANK - *Suddenly but* peacefully at home in Durham, on 24th December 1995, Tyrrell, beloved husband of Pam and father of Richard, Nicholas, James and Christopher, and a very special grandfather. Funeral Private. Memorial Service later.

DEATHS

BUTCHER - Thomas Edmund. Peacefully on Christmas Eve 1995, beloved husband of the late Jean Audrey. Deeply loved by his two daughters Alison and Fiona and their husbands; his four grandchildren Alice, Lucy, Olivia and Alexander and his dear brother Anthony. Private funeral, service of thanksgiving to be announced in the new year.

CATLOW - Anthony, Lt. Commander Tony Catlow D.S.C. Royal Navy (retired) Beloved husband of Jane, father of Piers and brother of Tommy. Suddenly on December 25th at 189 Bridle Path Lane, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840.

CHALABY - On 21st December, 1995, Pat (Chalaby née Cook) a very loving, caring mother and grandmother who will be greatly missed by all the family and friends. The funeral will be held at Wisborough Green Parish Church, Saturday 30th December at 2pm. May she be ever in His Peace.

CRANSWICK - Phillip Anthony, on Christmas Day, after a long illness borne with great courage. Funeral at St Mary's Church Riverside, Twickenham, on Wednesday 3rd January 1996, at 3 pm, and afterwards cremation at Hanworth Crematorium. No flowers, but donations to Dementia Research (Pick's Disease) National Hospital, 8-11 Queen Square, London WC1N 3BG and The St Mary's New Organ Fund, Dial House, Riverside, Twickenham, Middlesex.

CUTHBERT - Ronald on 21st December, passed away *peacefully at home. Much* loved husband of Barbara and dearest father of Susan. Funeral Service will be at Beckenham Crematorium on Tuesday 2nd January at 4pm. Family flowers only, donations to The British Heart Foundation, c/o Francis Chappell & Sons. Any enquiries please tel: (01689) 876116.

DALY - Suddenly at home on December 23rd, Michael *John (Mike)*. Beloved husband and friend of Jennifer (née Moss-Blundell) and darling daddy to Josephine, James and Matthew. Funeral at Ealing Abbey, W5 on Thursday 4th January, 1996 at 2pm. Private cremation. Family flowers only.

DEATHS

DAVISON - Beatrice, died peacefully on Christmas Day. Much loved. Funeral service to be held at 11.45am on Thursday, 4th January, 1996 at St Mary's Church, Bitton, Nr Bristol.

DORMER - Sir Joseph Spencer *Philip, 16th Baron Dormer*. Requiem and interment on Wednesday 3rd January at 11.30am. at the Church of St Charles Borromeo, Hampton-on-the-Hill, Warwick. Family flowers only. Donations to St Charles Borromeo Church, The Presbytery, Hampton-on-the-Hill, CV35 7QR.

DUNCAN - Augusta Mildred. Peacefully at St Raphael's Nursing Home, Edinburgh on Sunday 24th December 1995, in her 93rd year. Augusta Mildred (née Durran), wife of the late Gordon M. Duncan, D.F.C. and *dear mother of Flora*, John, and Isabel. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

EVANS - *Violet, on* December 25th, 1995, peacefully at Putney Hospital. Loving mother of Peter. Funeral service on 9th January, at 10.30am, at Putney Vale Crematorium. Enquiries to Ashton Mathias Funeral Service. (0181) 788 1790

FITZALAN HOWARD - *Meg*. Beloved wife of Michael and adored mother and grandmother. Suddenly and peacefully on Christmas *Day. Requiem Mass* at the Church of All Saints, Wardour at 3.p.m. on Wednesday, 3rd January, 1996 followed by private cremation at her request. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Nicholas' Hospice, MacMillan Way, Hardwick Lane, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 2QY. Memorial Service to be announced later.

FORD - On 23rd December, Virginia, much loved wife of Sir Edward Ford and mother of John and Robert Polk, and *Richard* and David Ford. Funeral at St Nicholas Church, Eydon, Northamptonshire at 12 noon Saturday 30th December. Train leaving Marylebone 9.48am arriving Banbury 11.09am will be met. Enquiries (01295) 770253.

DEATHS

GLOVER - Michael Gardner on December 21st, dearly loved by all his family. Funeral Friday December 29th 1995 at All Saint's Church, Tealby, Linc's at 12 noon. No flowers please. Enquiries to Charles Peatfield Funeral Service. Tel: (01673) 842621.

GRAVES - Eva Kathleen (née Ellerington). On December 23rd, aged 90, peacefully at Rosslyn Nursing Home. Much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St. Bridget's Church, West Kirby, on Wednesday January 3rd at 1.45pm followed by cremation.

GREENWOOD - M. Elizabeth of Kintbury, peacefully in Woodbridge on 28th December. Cremation 1.45pm 4th January Ipswich Crematorium. No flowers please; Any donations to Abbeyfield Deben Extra Care Society, Highlands, Woodbridge.

GRIFFITHS - Iorwerth Havard (Griff) on 21st December 1995 aged 86 years. Beloved husband of Dorothy, father of Elizabeth and Martyn and a dearly loved grandfather. Funeral service will take place at St Mary's Church, Litton Cheney, Dorset on Friday, 29 December at 2.00pm followed by interment. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, for the R.N.L.D. c/o AJ Wakely & Sons, 91 East Street, Bridport, Dorset.

GUEST - On December 22nd 1995, Philip Carol Ravely (Pip) aged 66 years of Fowey, Cornwall. Beloved husband of Sue (deceased). Funeral Service on Tuesday January 2nd at 11.30 am. Fowey Parish Church.

GUMSEL - H. Edward, dearly loved husband, father and grandfather, *peacefully* at home on December 23rd. Funeral at St. Martin's Church, East Horsley, at 10am, Saturday, December 30th. No flowers please.

GUNNINGHAM - On December 22nd, Cora Mary aged 90, peacefully at *Bramley House*, Westcott, formerly of the Blue Tiles, Leatherhead. Much loved mother of Cora-Anne, Averil and Pendril, grandmother of eleven and great-grandmother of thirteen. Funeral Service at St Mary's Stoke D'Abernon on Friday January 5th at 2.15pm.

DEATHS

HAINES - Beryl, aged 91. Peacefully at home on Christmas Day. Beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. Private cremation followed by a Thanksgivin Service in Droxford Church, on Friday January 5th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, please, but donations if desired to Droxford Church.

HEDLEY - Captain John Denis, late The Staffordshire Regiment, in Salisbury on 20th December aged 55 years after a long and tragic illness. Beloved son of the late Colonel and Mrs. Denis J. Hedley of Chigwell, Essex, loved and cared for by Annette, proud father of Nicky and Peter. Funeral on Friday 5th January in Salisbury Cathedral at 11.30am. All enquiries to Shergolds, funeral directors, 159, Fisherton Street, Salisbury - 01722 328566. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu to the Macmillan Unit, Odstock Hospital, Salisbury, Wiltshire or The Childrens' Hospice Appeal, The Long House, Chitterne, Wilts, BA12 0LG.

HEUSTON - Robert Francis Vere, Peacefully on 21st December, 1995. Formerly Regius professor of Laws at Trinity College, Dublin, and Fellow of Pembroke College, Oxford. Much loved husband of Bridget, brother of John, stepfather of Dimity, Patrick, Charlotte, and Sarah. Deeply regretted by all his family and friends. Funeral service on Saturday, 30th December at 2 o'clock at St Mary's, Kenilstown, Co. Meath, followed by burial at St Patrick's Tara. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6.

HOLMES - Margaret Jean Holmes (née Laing) died peacefully in hospital on *23rd December after a short* illness. Darling wife of Bob and loving mother of Brenda, Christine and Stephen. we shall miss her always. Cremation on Saturday 30th December at 11.30 am Woodside Crematorium, Paisley Nr. Glasgow. Family flowers only.

DEATHS

JACKSON-HOULSTON - Joseph Kenrick Reginald of Kingswood House, Lapworth in his 83rd year on December 22nd 1995. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Lapworth at 2.30pm on Tuesday 2nd January. No flowers, but donations if desired to Warwick Hospital Trust Fund.

JOLLIFFE - Peacefully on 13th December, Cecily Agnes (Mina) aged 91 years, former History teacher at Elm Grove Girls School, Brighton. Funeral has taken place. Any donations to Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital.

KING - Elizabeth (née Hobhouse), widow of Michael King, of Lockeridge, Nr. Marlborough died in Wiltshire on 23rd December after a short illness. Funeral at West Overton Church, Nr. Marlborough at 2.30 p.m. 29th December.

KIRCHNER - Isobel Strathearn, died suddenly at St George's Hospital, 12.06pm on Christmas Day, 1995. Cremation at Putney Vale on 2nd January, 1996 at 3.30pm. Family flowers only, or donations to Cancer Research Fund. Enquiries to Ashton Funeral Services. (0181) 946 1051

LEACH - Sallie F. (née Minoprio) widow of H. Roy Leach of Eardisland, Herefordshire: passed peacefully away December 23rd 1995.

MACKINTOSH - Lt. Commander Lachlan Ronald Duncan, O.B.E., 30th Chief of Clan Mackintosh, Lord Lieutenant of Lochaber, Inverness and Badenoch and Strathspey, adored husband of *Catia*, dearly loved father of Louisa, Bridget, John and the late Anne and darling grandpa of Heather, after a long illness courageously borne, peacefully at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness on 26th December 1995. Private family service at St. Andrews Cathedral, Inverness followed by interment at Daviot Churchyard. Memorial service at Inverness *Cathedral to be announced*. Flowers and enquiries to Funeral Directors; John Fraser & Son, Chapel Street, Inverness. (01463) 233366.

DEATHS

MALCOLM - On December 22nd, 1995 at Valley Lodge Nursing Home, Matlock, Derbyshire, Basil (Bill). Dear husband of Mary (née Hayes), father of Peter and Clare and Pompa of William and Oliver. Private funeral. Service of Remembrance to be announced later.

MEADE - James Edward, on 22nd December, peacefully at his home in Little Shelford, aged 88. Emeritus Professor of Political Economy in Cambridge University.

MELVILLE - Mary Patricia of Kensington SW7, on December 21st, aged 77. Only child of the late Sir James Melville (sometime Solicitor-General) and the late Lady Melville. Honorary Secretary of the Byron Society. *Funeral at* Brompton Oratory at 11am, January 3rd, followed by cremation at Putney Vale. Inquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd (0171 937 0757) who will receive flowers and donations to Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables.

MERRIMAN - John Langshaw. Died peacefully at home aged 78 on 22nd December. Beloved friend of Michael, brother of Pauline and Brien, uncle of Christopher, Anthony and Penny. Funeral at St. Bartholomew's, Ann Street, Brighton on 4th January 12 noon followed by cremation. Instead of flowers, donations please to St. Bart's.

MORLAND - Alice, widow of Sir Oscar Morland at Ampleforth, York on Christmas Day in her 91st year. Requiem Mass at midday on Saturday January 13 at Ampleforth. *As an alternative to* flowers a donation might be made to the Leonard Cheshire Foundation.

O'SHANOHUN - Frank, husband of Kathleen and father of Bridget, Jeremy and Matthew, peacefully at St Nicholas's Hospice, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk on 23rd December 1995 aged 78.

DEATHS

POWDERHAM - George Edward, on 22nd December, 1995. Peacefully at home with his family, after a brave fight. A dearly loved husband, father, grandfather and friend, who will be deeply missed. The funeral service will be held at St Marylebone Crematorium, Finchley, London N2, on Friday 29th December, 1995 at 10.30am. Inquiries to JA Clark & Son. Tel: 0181 449 3578. Family flowers only please, but donations if wished to a charity of your choice.

RAM - Elizabeth, died on Christmas Day peacefully in Cornwall, aged 94. Beloved wife of the late Sir Granville Ram, much loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Family funeral at St Peter's and St Paul's Church, Little Gaddesden, 12.30pm Thursday 4th January. *Thanksgiving* Service at Ladegloss Church, Polruan, Cornwall to be announced later.

ROBARTS - Norman James of Kimble, passed peacefully away aged 78. Much loved father and grandfather, will be sadly missed. Funeral Service 2.30pm Chilterns Crematorium, Amersham, tuesday 2nd January 1996. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Injured Jockey Fund or British Heart Foundation c/o K Y Green. (01296) 82041.

ROYLE - On Saturday December 23rd 1995, Anne Patricia, darling wife of Vernon and loving mother of Sally. Her funeral service is to be held at 2.00pm on Friday 29th December at St. Andrew's Church, Kegworth followed by private interment. Family flowers only. Enquiries to Gamble (Quorn) Tel: (01509) 415415.

SANDERS - Lance Ingelton, peacefully at home on December 23rd, following a stroke. Loved husband, father and grandfather. Private cremation. No flowers by request. Donations, if wished, to Amnesty International c/o Jno. Steel & Son, Cheril House, Winchester SO23 0HU. Memorial Service to be announced later.

DEATHS

SLOT - On 21st December 1995, peacefully at Worthing. Mary (Mary Munton), aged 94 years. Widow of the late Dr. Gerald Slot. Distinguished Journalist and well loved aunt and great-aunt. Funeral Service 3.20 p.m. Friday 5th January 1996 at Worthing Crematorium. All enquiries to H.D.Tribe Ltd., 130, Broadwater Road, Worthing. Tel: (01903) 234816.

STEVENS - Georgina Peggy, peacefully on Christmas Eve aged 86. She was loved and loving. Funeral at West Herts Crematorium, Garston, Watford on Friday December 29th at 12.15pm. Donations, if desired, to Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital, Middlesex HA6 1DE, or any organisation for the Aged.

STEWART - Derek C. Died peacefully on the 23rd of December 1995, beloved husband of the late Bettina, loving father of Mandy, Mark and Tizzy, grandfather of Ric, James, Georgia and Natasha, father-in-law of Barbara and Phillip. Funeral to be arranged. No flowers but donations to Cancer Care and Chemotherapy Appeal, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Bucks HP21 8AL.

STEWART COX - Thomas Charles, peacefully at home, on 24th December 1995, in his 73rd year. Funeral at St John the Baptist, Chirton on Saturday 30th December at 2.30pm. Family Flowers only. Donations, if desired, to *Stuart Funeral Service*, Castle Farm, Hiltworth Road, Devizes SN10 5XD, for Care at Home Service and Chirton Church.

STOKELD - Alan Orton, aged 85 years, died peacefully on December 24th, beloved husband of Esme, and a much loved father and grandfather.

TYRELL - Sarah (née Clark) beloved mother of James, died peacefully at home on December 26th. Private cremation, donations may be sent to British Diabetic Association, 10 Queen Anne Street, London W1M 0BD.

DEATHS
WADDELL - On December [illegible] hospital, Thom[illegible] most beloved h[illegible] Marion, deares[illegible] Kay and Ian, gra[illegible] Charles, Nell[illegible] James. Priva[illegible] cremation on Th[illegible] January 1996 [illegible] followed immed[illegible] Thanksgiving Se[illegible] Margaret's [illegible] Ditchling, Sussex. [illegible] Family flowers [illegible] desired donatio[illegible] made to Cancer [illegible] The Salvation [illegible] Hanslopton [illegible] Musleface Ro[illegible] Sussex. Tel: [illegible] 778732.
WEGNER - Pea[illegible] December 28th [illegible] 89, Tibby, [illegible] Service on Thu[illegible] January 2pm Gol[illegible] Crematorium. A[illegible] to J H Kenyon [illegible] 229 3810.
WILCOCK - Alan[illegible] 24th December, [illegible] hospital and of A[illegible] Bicester, Oxford[illegible] beloved husban[illegible] treasured father [illegible] Katherine and [illegible] grandfather [illegible] Charlotte and [illegible] Matthew and [illegible] Enquiries to [illegible] Watkin (01625[illegible]
WOODWARD - L[illegible] dear husband o[illegible] suddenly on 22n[illegible] 1995, Cremation [illegible] January 4th 19[illegible] London Ceme[illegible] flowers.
YOLLAND - Brig[illegible] Clifford Yol[illegible] peacefully on Dec[illegible] 1995, aged 87 ye[illegible] Service on Frida[illegible] 29th at 2.30[illegible] Nicholas Church [illegible] No flowers, but d[illegible] The NSPCC, 67 S[illegible] London EC1N 8R[illegible]
GOLDEN ANNIVERSAR[illegible]
BRADBURN - T[illegible] and Stuart. Co[illegible] from all the fami[illegible]
FLATSHARE
FLATMATES Lesbi[illegible] 020 7870 Prof[illegible] Shared Service.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR JAMES MEADE

James Meade, CB, FBA, Professor of Political Economy at the University of Cambridge, 1957-68, died on December 22 aged 88. He was born on June 23, 1907.



JAMES MEADE was one of the outstanding economists of his generation. The central theme of his life's work was the theory of economic policy, in all its aspects. That work was the source of many of the ideas that are now common currency among economists and policymakers. Meade was awarded a Nobel Prize in Economics in 1977, only the second British economist to have been thus honoured.

James Edward Meade was the son of Charles Hippisley Meade of Bath and descended in earlier generations from a family of Somerset parsons, with remoter connections to Ireland. He was educated at Malvern College and Oriel College, Oxford, at both of which he held classical scholarships. After a first in Mods in 1928, he deserted the classics for economics and obtained another first in PPE in 1930.

This was at a time when economists at Oxford were few and in 1931 he spent a year at Trinity College, Cambridge, under Dennis Robertson, whose *Banking Policy and the Price Level* had recently started a new approach to monetary thinking. The monetary systems of the world were in a state of crisis. Keynes had published his *Treatise on Money* only a few months before. Cambridge economics was in a ferment of argument which led on a few years later to Keynes's *General Theory*.

All of this gave Meade the stimulus which he needed, and he very quickly made his mark as one of the group of young economists ("the circus") who met to discuss Keynes's ideas. Out of these discussions came an article by Richard Kahn (the late Lord Kahn) which is remembered as a milestone in the history of economic thought because it was the origin of the concept of the multiplier. What was often forgotten was that it was Meade, Kahn's collaborator, who first generalised this seminal concept as "Mr Meade's Relation" — now recognised as the seed of the Keynesian revolution in economic theory. This was quite a debut for a novice in economics, not yet 25 years old.

Meade went back the next year to Oxford to Hertford College, where he had already been elected a Fellow in 1930. He remained there until 1937, lecturing, teaching and serving for a period as Bursar. His first book, *Economic Analysis and Policy* (1936), though designed as an undergraduate text, had all the qualities that he retained in later writings. At Hertford, as throughout his life, he was writing all the time. He was one of the most prolific of economists, perhaps too prolific for his ideas always to receive their due recognition. The book — the substantial book — remained his preferred medium, even in his later years, by which time the journal article had increasingly become the predominant vehicle for new ideas in economics. Despite the great amount of his writing, it was always careful, scholarly, well thought out and well presented.

By 1938 he had already achieved a reputation. In that year he was invited to join the staff of the Economic Intelligence Service of the League of Nations in Geneva, where it was his responsibility to write the then very important annual *World Economic Surveys*.

When war came he was still in Geneva. By early in 1940 the financing of the war had come to present a problem only to be solved — as Keynes had shown in his *How to Pay for the War* — in terms of allocation of resources based on accurate and up-to-date national income measurements. Some of the economists already working in the Cabinet Office persuaded Sir Edward Bridges, then Secretary of the Cabinet, to let them appoint a minute staff to prepare, for the first time in British history, official national income estimates. James Meade and Richard Stone were invited to take on the task. Meade, with his wife and infant children, made a perilous journey across France, narrowly escaping being overrun by the advancing German armies and leaving their car on the quayside at Nantes.

During the next 12 months Meade and Stone created, under immense pressure of time and insistent demands from a by now impatient Treasury, a wholly original system of national income statistics which has survived in essentials ever since. Meade was the chief architect of the logical framework, Stone of the statistical brickwork. But in the end the labours were shared equally between them. They saw the fulfilment of them in the White Paper which accompanied Kingsley Wood's Budget of 1941, prepared under the influence of Keynes, who was by then in the Treasury.

Over the next few years of war, Meade moved on to other things, playing a large part in the economic discussions and negotiations that led up to the Atlantic Treaty, to Bretton Woods and to the White Paper on postwar employment.

In 1946 he succeeded Lionel Robbins as Director of the Economic Section of the Cabinet Office. He was quite unlike any other economist in high office in Whitehall. Where others were anxious to work shoulder-to-shoulder with their Civil Service colleagues, Meade remained detached, austere, rigid in his analytical thinking, prepared to make civil servants think in his terms precisely and accurately about their problems. In the early days of nationalisation and public sector economics, to take one example, he was already making them think about ideal outputs and marginal cost pricing, matters which became familiar by the 1960s but which were unheard of in the 1940s. For his Civil Service work Meade was appointed CB in 1947, one of very few temporary civil servants to be honoured in this way.

In that year he left Whitehall to return to academic work, joining the London School of Economics to hold a chair that was primarily concerned with international trade. In the ten years that he held it he greatly enhanced his own personal reputation and that of his department.

He continued to be associated with the school as a governor, and as such took very much to heart the difficulties and tribulations of the school and the breakdown of the human relations between staff and students in the late 1960s. Meade was a passionate defender of rational argument and democratic decision and believed that the principles of democracy, as well as the essentials of a university, were in danger of being destroyed by the use of force.

In 1957, when the Cambridge Chair of Political Economy became vacant through the retirement of Sir Dennis Robertson, Meade was elected to it. He moved to Cambridge at a time when the Cambridge school was dominated by the tradition of Keynes and the first generation of his disciples. Meade, himself in essentials but by no means uncritically a Keynesian, had problems fitting into the new environment. He was never anxious to dominate, still less to administer, the Cambridge faculty.

Over the next ten years, nonetheless, he gradually became the keystone of the Cambridge teaching. His lucid lectures on economic principles formed the intellectual foundation of a generation of Cambridge undergraduates. He made Cambridge teaching more precise, more rigidly analytical. He enjoyed his contacts with undergraduates and they responded to it.

Meade made no attempt to found a school of Meadeans. But by his sheer intellectual quality he was the largest influence on the ablest of his younger colleagues. A number of these got together to produce in 1980 a festschrift, *Public Policy and the Tax System*. Two years earlier he had been associated with a group of them in the writing of a major study of direct taxation that came to be known as the Meade Report.

To the surprise of many of his friends and despite their earnest attempts to dissuade him, Meade decided in 1967 to resign the chair. He was anxious to devote himself more single-mindedly to writing economics. He had set himself a vast task of writing a many-volume *Principles of Political Economy*, a stage-by-stage approach by rigid analysis to economic reality. The first two volumes had been published in 1965 and 1968, and a great deal more — more than a normal man's life work — still remained to be accomplished.

As a sincere liberal, he distrusted much of the more socialist thinking of some of his senior colleagues. He continued to hold a Fellowship at Christ's College to which, as professor, he had been elected, and a specially created Nuffield Research fellowship; he retained a room in the faculty building, and shared almost as fully as in the past in all the theoretical disputation which went on there. He continued to run a seminar for graduate students and he continued, perhaps a little more remotely, to take his responsible part in the work of the Royal Economic Society, of which he was president 1964-66, and that of the British Academy, to which he had been elected in 1951.

While he was at the LSE, he had written one of his most distinguished contributions to theoretical economics, the two volumes of *The Theory of International Economic Policy*. After his retirement from the chair at Cambridge, books of an astonishing range continued to flow from his pen. He received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1977 for his work, in particular, on international trade cycles.

In the late 1970s he embarked on a major new study, with some younger collaborators, on the subject of stagflation. Remaining himself much more a Keynesian than a monetarist, yet recognising the challenge posed to full employment policies by inflation, he put forward proposals that drew something from each of those schools, together with distinctive suggestions of his own on incomes policy. These ideas were widely discussed at the time of their first publication in 1982, not least in the SDP, of which Meade was a founder member, though his ideas in the end did not find favour there.

Meade's liberal rationalism evoked comparisons with J. S. Mill, as did his combination of courtesy, kindness and modesty with an underlying fervour. Meade was, indeed, a person of curious contradictions. An Irish streak in his make-up, combined with an extraordinarily strong sense of principle, made him at the same time somewhat quixotic and somewhat inflexible. He was seldom willing to compromise with worldly-wise views that infringed his sense of justice and his sense of logic.

Meade was also a practical man, a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker, and the possessor of a fine baritone singing voice. He is survived by his wife Margaret, whom he married in 1933, one son and three daughters.

SIR COLVILLE DEVERELL

Sir Colville Deverell, GBE, KCMG, CVO, Governor of Mauritius, 1959-62, and later Secretary-General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, died on December 18 aged 88. He was born on February 21, 1907.



THE second career of "Dev" Deverell, on which he embarked in his late fifties, was prompted by the experiences of his first one. While working as a colonial administrator in two hemispheres, he observed at first hand the misery caused by unwanted pregnancies and the consequences of over-population in the Third World.

This was nowhere more apparent than in Mauritius, his final posting, where he arrived as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in 1959. Its heterogeneous population of 600,000 was then largely sustained by an annual yield of 600,000 tons of sugar exports — one ton of sugar per head of population. This simple equation which underlay the island's economy was upset, however, by a fall in the price of sugar and by a rising birthrate.

Mauritius succeeded in diversifying, by developing its tourism for example. South Africa's pariah status at the time made travel firms eager to discover fresh locations, and Mauritians were not slow to take advantage. But the problems which over-population exemplified were those which Deverell had also seen in the West Indies and in black Africa, and made him conscious of the need to promote family planning.

Born Colville Montgomery Deverell near Dublin, he was the son of the accountant-general of the Bank of Ireland. The Deverells were Irish Protestants who had first come to England with William the Conqueror, then crossed to Ireland with William of Orange, settling down in Co Clare for the next few centuries.

"Dev" (he was never known by any other name) went from Portora School, Enniskillen, to Trinity College Dublin, to read law. An accomplished sportsman throughout his life, he also played tennis and cricket for Trinity College. A contemporary in the cricket first XI was the playwright Samuel Beckett.

He had always wanted, however, to join the Colonial Service, inspired by the example of his uncle who had served in Kenya for many years. After being accepted by Whitehall, he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, for a 12-month course in local politics and languages, then sailed for Kenya in 1931.

Deverell spent the next seven years as a district officer before moving to Nairobi in 1938 as clerk to the colony's executive and legislative councils. Commissioned into the Army on the outbreak of the Second World War, he was posted to the civil affairs branch of the East Africa Command in 1941 and spent the next five years in Italian and British Somaliland and Ethiopia. He was a member of Lord de la Warr's delegation to Ethiopia in 1944 and was seconded to the War Office for the negotiations which led in 1946 to the Italian peace treaty. He ended the war in the rank of acting brigadier.

Deverell then returned to Kenya, first as secretary of the Development and Reconstruction Authority. He next became financial secretary and chief native commissioner, before becoming administrative secretary in 1949. As such, Deverell planned the 1952 visit to Kenya by the young Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, during which she succeeded to the Throne on the death of her father King George VI.

In the same year Deverell moved to become colonial secretary in Jamaica — in effect the deputy to the Governor Sir Hugh Foot (later Lord Caradon). The Foots and the Deverells were to become close and lasting friends. In 1953 he was appointed CVO, and created KCMG in 1957.

In 1955 Deverell was made the last Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, transferring four years later to Mauritius. He retired from the Colonial Service in 1962. Having been appointed OBE in 1946, he was advanced to GBE in 1963.

It so happened that at about that time the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), a federation of family planning associations throughout the world, was prospecting for its first full-time Secretary-General, to provide strong leadership and increase the organisation's international status. Sir Colville Deverell was almost tailor-made for the job.

His strengths were an incisive, independent mind, backed by a natural Irish charm and sociability. With these weapons in his armoury he led the federation during the next five years during which it saw a steady expansion in its field of activity throughout the developing world, particularly in the Indian sub-continent and South America.

At home he encouraged internal debate over the IPPF's role, successfully arguing the case for backing the encouragement of voluntary family planning as opposed to statutory population control, imposed from above.

At the same time he chaired the UN family planning mission to India in 1966 and a similar one to Ceylon six years later. He also accepted a number of jobs for the British Government, acting as a constitutional adviser on the Seychelles and later for the Virgin Islands.

He retained his sporting prowess, playing squash and golf as well as tennis and cricket, which he continued until well into his seventies when Alzheimer's disease caught up with him. He had spent the last eight years in hospital.

Deverell is survived by his wife Margaret, whom he met when she went out to visit her cousin, the Attorney-General, in Kenya during his time there, and by two of their three sons. His eldest son John, who was MI5 Director of Intelligence in Belfast, died in the helicopter crash on the Mull of Kintyre which killed many of Ulster's leading security officials 18 months ago.

DAVID NICKERSON

David Nickerson, antiques dealer, died after a stroke on November 23 aged 62. He was born on March 24, 1933.



DAVID NICKERSON dealt in antiques for the firm of Mallett and Son for 38 years and played a key part in its transformation. Mallett's in Bond Street had long been reputed to lead the field in classic English furniture. The firm's fortunes burgeoned under Francis Egerton, who was chairman of the company, 1950-83, and who moved it towards a more catholic and eye-catching style.

Egerton launched a continentally-slanted sister shop in 1967 at Bourdon House, Davies Street, and asked Nickerson to run it. Nickerson had joined the Bond Street shop ten years previously, and oversaw Mallett at Bourdon House for the next quarter of a century. He was a director of Mallett's, 1968-83, and managing director thereafter.

Just north of Berkeley Square, a huge plane tree dwarfs a garden façade of baroque brick. Here, in the former townhouse of the Duke of Westminster, Nickerson presided over a labyrinth of showrooms into which occasionally the aromatic fumes of glue and lacquer might waft from the warren of tiled workshops below stairs. On the ground floor, tall windows gave onto a walled garden, home to Mogul fountains, Roman busts, Renaissance wellheads, and gates of writhing gilded iron. Nickerson was catholic in his enthusiasms, and one never knew what one might find in the shop.

Born in London, Nickerson was educated at Eton, at Norwich High School and at Trinity College, Cambridge. After university, he lived in Paris to learn French, but then returned to London where he joined Mallett's. His potential was immediately spotted by Egerton, and he was groomed for high positions.

Nickerson was the least pompous and stuffy of men. He was quick to calculate the intricacies of business and to understand how, by a cocktail of credit, cajolery and discount, to nail a deal.

He lived during the week in Notting Hill, with a series of flat-coated black retrievers, and within walking distance of his local pub, the Windsor Castle. He had more than a touch of the Mr Toad about him, favouring pinstripes — nearer the weekend tweeds — and yellow pullovers. He is survived by his wife Sara, two sons and a daughter.

PERSONAL COLUMN

DEATHS

WADDELL - On Friday 22nd December peacefully in hospital, Thomas Stanley most beloved husband of Marion, dearest father of Kay and Ian, grandfather of Charles, Neil, Lucy and James. Private family cremation on Tuesday 2nd January 1996, will be followed immediately by a Thanksgiving Service at St Margaret's Church, Ditchling, Sussex at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but if desired donations may be made to Cancer Research or The Salvation Army c/o Hanningtons F/D, 4-6 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex. Tel: (01275) 778733.

WEGNER - Peacefully on December 25th 1995, aged 89. Tibby. Cremation Service on Thursday 4th January 2pm Golders Green Crematorium. All enquiries to J H Kenyon. Tel: (0171) 229 5810.

WILCOCK - Alan David, on 24th December, suddenly in hospital and of Austen Walk, Bicester, Oxford, aged 66, beloved husband of Rose, treasured father of Helen and Katherine and much loved grandfather to Kim, Charlotte and Sara, Ben, Matthew and Daniel. Enquiries to Hooley & Watkins (01628) 422754.

WOODWARD - Leslie Harry, dear husband of Annette, suddenly on 22nd December 1995. Cremation 1.45 pm January 4th 1996, City of London Cemetery. No flowers.

YOLLAND - Brigadier Robert Gifford Yolland OBE, peacefully on December 24th 1995, aged 87 years. Funeral Service on Friday December 29th at 2.30pm at St Nicholas Church Cobbleland. No flowers, but donations to The NSPCC, 67 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8RS.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BRADBURN - To Barbara and Stuart. Congratulations from all the family.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
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COURT AND SOCIAL PAGE
OVER THE NEW YEAR PERIOD THE FOLLOWING DEADLINES WILL APPLY:
Notices to appear on Thursday, December 28th should be received in writing by noon on Wednesday, December 27th. Notices to appear on Friday, December 29, should be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday, December 27.
Notices to appear on Saturday, December 30; Monday, January 1; Tuesday, January 2 should be received in writing by 12 noon on Thursday, December 28.
ALL NOTICES ARE ACCEPTED SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION
TEL 0171 782 7347
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OLD VIC

"A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"
By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Let it be said at the outset that this is an enchanting performance of the play. The word "enchanting" is not vaguely used as an adjective of general praise, but to mean that the stage ceases altogether to be self-consciously theatrical, that a spell descends upon it, that illusion is complete, and that the fairies are the fairies that one expects to leap out of the air. Mr. Messel's designs, Miss Ninette de Valois's choreography, and Mr. Tyrone Guthrie's production have combined in the waving of a single wand.

A Midsummer night's Dream is not *The school for Scandal*. In one the form is loose and asks for inventions; in the other strict, forbidding all but its own. To one ballet is appropriate; to the other, not. And as for "period"—who cares in this Athenian wood? Shakespeare and Mendelssohn, in the world of pure imagination, which is to be distinguished from the comedy of manners, are artists independent of what is fashionable, what is "contemporary", what is early Victorian or up to date. What matters, is that the other contributory artists—Guthrie, Messel, de Valois—should exercise their own imaginations freely. They can call the result "early Victorian" if they will. Perhaps it is, if you think in those terms, but it appears as one of the loveliest, most magical, and least affected productions of the play that the stage has seen for many years. There are a few weak spots. Miss Agnes Lauchlan's early couplets are too mincing, but in the later scenes both she and Miss Alexis France are more than moderately good lovers and quarrellers. Mr. Messel's costumes for Cobweb and his fellows are a little freakish. The Puck, though Master Gordon Miller attacks the part gallantly, would be better if cast for more experience, and Miss Vivien Leigh, who looks extremely pretty, and promises a genuine firmness in her verse, is as yet a trifle nervous of Titania's authority. But there is an end of complaint. Even those who are not naturally enthusiastic about Shakespearian comics may be delighted by the vivacity of Ralph Richardson's Bottom, and the special drollery of Mr. Frederick Bennett's Snug. When they and their companions pass from rehearsal to performance they combine with Mr. Guthrie's inventions to give as entertaining a version of the interlude as we remember. The flying fairies seem not to be on wires but in sweeping flight . . . And the production yields, moreover, a discovery. It will be useless in future for Mr. Robert Helpmann to pretend that he is exclusively a dancer of the first rank. Certainly his dancing gives strength to his Oberon: he glides into imagined invisibility; but that is not all: his verse sings with his thought, his Oberon flashes with power, and presides, as Oberons do rarely, over the whole magic of the wood.

ON THIS DAY

December 28, 1937

For this production Tyrone Guthrie brought together Ralph Richardson as Bottom, Vivien Leigh as Titania, Robert Helpmann as Oberon and a young Anthony Quayle as Demetrius. The designs were by Oliver Messel and the choreography by Ninette de Valois.

ENGLISH ADVERTISING BY WIRELESS

PARIS, DEC. 27

The French Government will shortly introduce a Bill forbidding private wireless stations to broadcast advertising matter in English, to exceed a certain limit of transmitting power, or to use a wavelength not in accordance with the international broadcasting conventions.

This action is the result of strong representations by the British Government against the erection by Radio-Normandie of a 100-kilowatt station at Louvenot, about halfway between Rouen and Le Havre, with the object of broadcasting advertisements in English. Besides proposing to use a wave-length which would inconvenience other European stations, Radio-Normandie were acting contrary to the British objection to commercial broadcasting.

NEWS

Cold weather cash for millions

■ The Government is to pay tens of millions of pounds to sick and elderly people across large parts of the country as Arctic conditions claimed at least three lives and brought widespread disruption to transport.

Most of Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the east of England remained blanketed by snow and further showers are expected in Essex and Kent today, with sub-zero temperatures persisting until the weekend ..... **Pages 1, 2**

Woolly socks and love for hostages

■ Two British hostages held in Kashmir since early July have received taped Christmas greetings, woolly socks and winter clothing from loved ones through intermediaries in India. The captives are guarded by as many as 20 separatist gunmen at 10,000 feet in the Himalayan foothills ..... **Page 1**

Father's plea

The father of the missing French teenager Celine Figard appealed to lorry drivers for help in tracing the man who gave her a lift last week. With a relative acting as interpreter, Bernard Figard said: "Please keep helping us, we need to find Celine" ..... **Pages 1, 3**

Sunshine Princess

The Princess of Wales flew to the Caribbean, leaving her sons to enjoy the rest of their traditional British Christmas at Sandringham. She is expected to stay on the island of Nevis ..... **Page 1**

Pay disputes loom

John Major faces confrontation over pay with doctors, nurses and teachers, who are looking for increases of between 4 and 8 per cent ..... **Page 2**

Care in community

A charter for the mentally ill is to be announced by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, in an attempt to allay public concern after a spate of violent attacks by patients who have been released into the community ..... **Page 4**

Lowry gallery

The world's largest collection of L. S. Lowry's paintings and sketches is to have pride of place in a £75 million performing-arts centre bearing his name in Salford. A purpose-built gallery will display more than 300 of his depictions of working-class life ..... **Page 5**

Schools security

Secondary school heads have hired a former assistant chief constable to advise schools on spotting potential flashpoints in their communities and to help to assess security arrangements for staff and pupils ..... **Page 6**

White House dream

The publishing tycoon Steve Forbes has moved into second place in the race for the Republican presidential nomination. And after spending £4.5 million, he is the only candidate gaining in popularity ..... **Page 8**

Speeding westward

Montana has scrapped speed limits on its main roads. But the end of the federal 55mph limit has not only reduced journey times; it has also brought death and an influx of out-of-state speed maniacs ..... **Page 9**

Peace talks

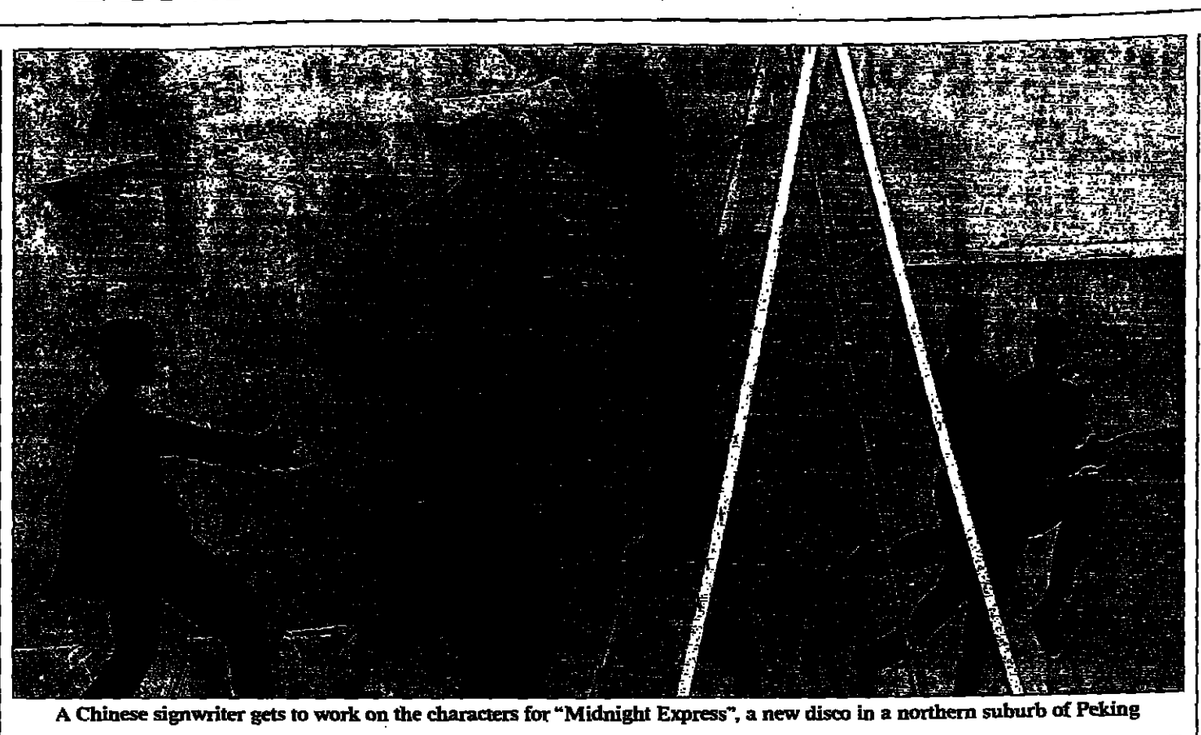
Israeli and Syrian negotiators launched a new round of peace talks in Maryland. American officials were optimistic that an initial peace agreement could be achieved by the spring ... **Page 10**

Highway robbery

Robbers armed with rocket launchers and machineguns carried out a spectacular attack on a security van on the Lille to Paris motorway, killing a guard before escaping with a large sum of cash ..... **Page 11**

Letting the train take the Strine

■ Residents in Covent Garden have pulled the plug on an Australian Tube announcer who welcomed visitors to one of London's main tourist attractions in "pure Strine". A new recording has been made, but an Underground spokeswoman said: "We do not agree that all announcements should be in white, middle-class standard English accents." ..... **Page 4**



A Chinese signwriter gets to work on the characters for "Midnight Express", a new disco in a northern suburb of Peking

BUSINESS

Consumer power: Shoppers may be invited to buy their electricity and gas at supermarket checkouts once competition to supply households is allowed in 1998 .... **Page 21**

Jobs: Widespread job insecurity is a brake on economic growth and hampering the Government's electoral prospects, according to a Harris poll for the TUC ..... **Page 21**

Golden handshake: Stuart Wallis, Fisons' departing chief executive, has negotiated a £2.5 million payoff from the company's new owner, Rhone-Poulenc Rorer ..... **Page 21**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 18.1 points to close at 3676.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.0 to 83.6 after a rise from $1.5415 to $1.5602 and from DM2.2202 to DM2.2330 .... **Page 24**

SPORT

Cricket: South Africa made sure they could not lose the fourth Test with a first innings score of 428. England ended the second day on 40 for one ..... **Page 38**

Football: Manchester United halted Newcastle United's march towards the Premiership title with a 2-0 win at Old Trafford. Andy Cole stole the show with a brilliant goal against his old club ..... **Page 40**

Rugby union: The Barbarians lost their traditional Christmas fixture against Leicester 51-25, but their immediate future has been secured by an extension of Scottish Amicable's sponsorship ..... **Page 37**

Racing: The British Horseracing Board has reorganised fixtures to offset the losses inflicted by the weather ..... **Page 34**

ARTS

Operatic turkey: Our series of Great Showbiz Disasters concludes with Henze's opera *We Come to the River*, one of the worst debacles in Covent Garden's history .. **Page 30**

Films of the Year: Geoff Brown's selects his top movies of 1995, including Loach's *Land and Freedom* and the recent children's film *Babe* ..... **Page 31**

On this day, 1895: A hundred years ago today, the Lumière Brothers opened the world's first paying cinema. But other dates perhaps have a better claim to the title of "birthday of the movies" ..... **Page 31**

Sound advice: "What radio proves every Christmas," writes Peter Barnard, "is that television would do us all, and itself, a favour if it took a few chances" ..... **Page 31**

FEATURES

Party time: Dedicated party-throwers are making plans for New Year's Eve, 1999. Revellers are booking seats on Concorde; a mystery order has been made for 5,000 bottles of vintage champagne, and the Millennium Society has commandeered the *QE2* ..... **Page 13**

Leukaemia hope: A new kind of blood bank, offering hope for children who need a bone-marrow transplant, has opened ..... **Page 12**

Chill will: We don't wrap up properly when we leave our inadequately heated houses to face the cold, says Dr Thomas Stuttaford. Then we wonder why we get ill ..... **Page 12**

BOOKS

Russian genius: Dostoevsky on Dostoevsky; a rediscovered George Crabbe story in verse; Erica Wagner on Lewis Lapham's America, and Stephen Logan on Raymond Williams ..... **Pages 32, 33**

TRAVEL NEWS

Ski glee: Winter holidays in America — for either snow or sun — are becoming more popular .... **Page 18**

THE PAPERS

A flurry of snow in the Home Counties and those who get to work think themselves the equal of Captain Scott. The real bad weather is in the far north. The Government should do everything in its power to alleviate hardship there

— Evening Standard

TV LISTINGS

Preview: The frozen far north is snow joke. *Billy Connolly: A Scot in the Arctic* (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Review: Lynne Truss finds that everything turns out all right on the night ..... **Page 39**

SPIRIT

Christmas chill

A combination of humility, contrition and, for the worst affected, financial compensation would warm the hearts of the most frozen islanders. Such an offer has yet to be made ..... **Page 15**

Bone-headed China

Peking persists in a needlessly and foolishly aggressive stance towards Hong Kong which has begun to worry even its close associates there ..... **Page 15**

Family affairs

The aspect of Cancer that is most pertinent for everyone at this time of year was implied in the Christmas message of the Archbishop of Canterbury: that all births are miraculous and all families, however much at war, are sacred .... **Page 15**

COLUMNS

JANET DALEY

I suspect that Mrs Lawrence would like to see her husband Philip's death become a turning point, for all the outrage and sympathy it has evoked, to be channelled into a crusade against the mindless urban brutality which now looks intractable ..... **Page 14**

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The 80th anniversary of the poet Padraic Pearse's death will be this April; what he believed in is very relevant to the future of the peace process and the history of modern Ireland ..... **Page 14**

MAGNUS LINKLATER

In snowbound Scotland, we have nursed freezing fingers and learnt the true meaning of "the wind-chill factor". We have also witnessed some scenes of breathtaking beauty ..... **Page 14**

OBITUARIES

James Meade, Cambridge professor of political economy; **Sir Colville Deverell**, former Governor of Mauritius; **David Nickerson**, antique dealer ..... **Page 17**

LETTERS

Fairness of courts martial: Bethleham Star; protecting support for exports; maths standards; tax on wheat ..... **Page 15**



TOMORROW

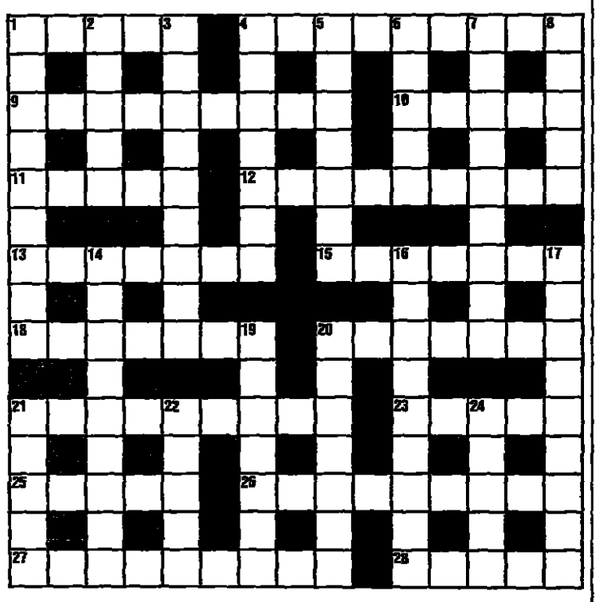
IN THE TIMES

■ ARTS
Can Madonna be a credible Evita, or is her role to shock with her pop persona?

■ SPORT
David Miller looks back on 1995 and forward to a year of Olympic proportions



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,049



ACROSS

1 One concealed by secretive type? Right (5).
4 He's tucked into an African fowl (6,3).
9 Hold up transport worker in van? Just the opposite (9).
10 Planet revolved rapidly, we hear (5).
11 Is pulling out one border plant (5).
12 Unusually dapper in one sort of trousers (9).
13 How stupid, as one bridge-player doubled opponent (7).
15 Skill required to make speech (7).
18 Get from one river to another, coming back for one more (7).
20 One accepted by Constable as likewise a great artist (7).
21 A fabulous creature in vessel is confined to small area (9).
23 French artist's saintly patron (5).
25 American humorist popular with Scottish company? (5).
26 A boy given directions by head of Latin staff (9).
27 Improper behaviour during code-breaking? Odd (9).
28 Showing very little change? Yes, a minute variation (5).

DOWN

1 Dishonest player in club, say? Exactly! (4-5).
2 A pullover as present (5).
3 Attractiveness of publication, new version of Times (9).
4 Big noise made by exploding grenade (7).
5 After Eastern state, name a state in Midwest (7).
6 East wind disturbed the old king (5).
7 Difficult point about one resolution (9).
8 Do some jogging, without a stitch, around midnight (5).
14 Two rivers in delta confusedly mingle together (9).
16 Like plane taking pair to America after start of last month (9).
17 Succeeded with wit or use of a more tangible weapon (9).
19 Cheerful person making an approach (7).
20 Progressive Christian, for example (7).
21 Artistic little boys set it up (5).
22 Pessimist, extremely crusty and not altogether pleasant (5).
24 Approve no medicine containing such poisonous stuff (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,048

T	E	A	T	A	S	T	E	R		E	T	H	O	S
I		S		M		O		E		N		Y		T
C	O	C	K	P	I	T		C	H	A	R	P	O	Y
T		O		E		O		M		N		L		
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G			A		I		D		L		T			
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O		U		A		S		C		M		D		R
M	A	T	T	E	R		E	V	E	R	Y	B	O	D	Y

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

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National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, 7C (45F); lowest day max: Loch Glascarnoch, Highland, -10C (14F); highest rainfall: Kinkwall, Orkney, 0.19in; highest sunshine: Leeds, 6.8hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** the cold weather will continue for the most part, although it will be sunny for much of the time in many districts.

The east coast of England, north of the Humber, could see the odd snow flurry, while inland in places freezing fog could persist all day.

More general snow is likely to feed into Shetland in the evening, then on into northern Scotland overnight. Further south, frost will become widespread again with some fog.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, Wales:** Sunny intervals, mainly dry. Wind east light to moderate. Cold. Max 2C (36F).

☐ **Midlands, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** freezing fog persisting in places, otherwise dry with sunny intervals. Wind mainly east light to moderate. Very cold. Max 0C (32F).

☐ **E England, NE England, Aberdeen:** sunny intervals, isolated snow flurries. Wind light and variable. Cold. Max 1C (34F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England:** mainly sunny. Wind east moderate to fresh. Max 4C (39F)

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney:** mainly dry with some sunshine, cloud increasing later. Wind light and variable, becoming southwest moderate to fresh. Very cold. Max 0C (32F).

☐ **Shetland:** sunny intervals, prolonged snow showers later. Wind north light, becoming southwest moderate to fresh. Max (36F).

☐ **Outlook:** staying cold across much of Britain, with rain or snow pushing into the south west later.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm. b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm, du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain, sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	1.9	0.01	-6	18	b	Liverpool	6.4	-	7	34	s
Anglesey	6.2	-	3	37	s	London	-	0.01	3	36	du
Aspatria	4.7	-	-6	21	s	Lowestoft	-	0.04	0	32	sn
Aviemore	3.6	-	10	14	b	Manchester	6.3	-	0	34	s
Belfast	1.5	-	-3	27	fg	Margate	6.7	0.02	3	37	s
Birmingham	4.7	-	0	32	s	Minehead	1.0	-	0	32	sn
Bognor R	2.6	-	1	34	b	Morecambe	6.1	-	-2	28	s
Bournem'th	-	0.01	1	34	sn	Newcastle	5.1	-	0	32	s
Bristol	-	-	0	32	sn	Newquay	6.0	-	x	x	s
Buxton	4.0	-	-2	28	s	Norwich	x				
Cardiff	-	-	0	32	c	Nottingham	x				
Clacton	1.5	-	x	x	fg	Oxford		-	-1	28	sn
Cleethorpes	x					Penzance	4.3	-	5	41	s
Colwyn Bay	5.5	-	0	32	s	Plymouth	x				
Cromer	-	0.13	-1	30	s	Poole	-	-	1	34	sn
Doncaster	x					Prestatyn	x	-	-1	30	s
Dunbar	x					Ross-o-wye	-	-	2	36	c
Eastbourne	5.0	-	3	37	s	Ryde	x				
Edinburgh	5.1	-	-2	28	s	Salcombe	x				
Eskdalemuir	5.4	-	-5	23	s	Sandown	-	0.03	4	39	sn
Exmouth	5.4	-	0	32	sn	Saunton Snd	5.1	-	2	36	s
Falmouth	1.1	-	5	41	c	Scarboro'	4.3	-	-1	30	s
Fishguard	4.8	-	0	32	s	Shanklin	-	0.03	3	37	sn
Folkestone	6.5	0.04	2	36	s	Shrewsbury	3.9	-	0	32	c
Glasgow	5.6	-	-9	16	s	Skegness	0.4	-	-1	30	c
Guernsey	4.5	-	6	43	s	Southend	-	0.03	0	32	fg
Hastings	4.6	-	3	37	s	Southport	5.7	-	-1	30	s
Hayling I.	1.2	-	2	36	s	Southsea	1.4	-	2	36	s
Herne Bay	x					St. Ives	x				
Hove	4.2	-	3	37	s	Stornoway	2.5	-	0	32	s
Hunstanton	-	0.09	1	34	b	Swanage	-	-	4	39	sn
Isle of Man	6.4	-	3	37	s	Teignmouth	0.9	-	2	36	c
Jersey	5.6	-	5	41	s	Tenby	x				
Kinloss	x					Tiree	0.9	-	3	37	sn
Leeds	6.8	-	2	36	s	Torquay	0.2	-	2	36	c
Lerwick	x					Tynemouth	0.3	-	-2	28	c
Lauchars	0.6	-	-3	27	s	Ventnor	-	0.03	3	37	sn
Littlehmptn	3.8	-	3	37	s	Weymouth	1.1	0.04	1	34	sn

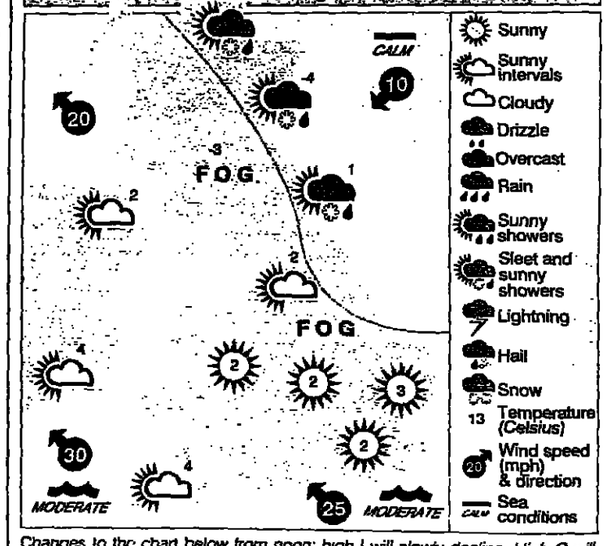
ABROAD

Ajaccio	11	52	c	Corfu	15	59	c	Madrid	9	48	f
Akrotiri	19	66	s	C'phagn	-5	23	c	Majorca	15	59	f
Alex'dria	20	68	s	Dublin	0	32	f	Malaga	15	59	d
Algiers	21	70	f	Dubrovnik	14	57	f	Malta	19	66	f
Amst'dm	-1	30	s	Faro	19	66	f	Molb'rne	18	64	s
Athens	x			Florence	8	46	c	Miami	16	61	s
B Aires	27	81	s	Frankfurt	-1	30	f	Milan	5	41	c
Bahrain	18	64	s	Funchal	21	70	f	Montreal	-8	18	x
Bangkok	27	81	s	Geneva	1	34	c	Moscow	-13	9	c
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	18	64	r	Munich	-3	27	sn
Barcelona	9	48	f	Helsinki	-13	9	s	N Delhi	18	64	s
Beirut	18	64	s	Hong K	20	68	s	N York	2	36	s
Belgrade	1	34	sn	Innsbruck	-1	30	sn	Nairobi	24	75	f
Berlin	-4	25	c	Istanbul	15	59	f	Naples	16	61	c
Bermuda	16	61	f	Jeddah	27	81	s	Nice	12	57	f
Biarritz	3	37	c	Jo'burg	22	72	f	Oslo	-14	7	f
Borde'x	1	34	s	Karachi	25	77	s	Paris	2	36	c
Brussels	-4	25	c	L Angels	17	63	s	Peking	2	36	s
Budapst	2	36	f	L Palmas	22	72	s	Perth	27	81	c
Cairo	20	68	s	Le Tquet	-1	30	s	Prague	5	23	c
Cape Tn	24	75	c	Lisbon	17	63	c	Reykjavik	-5	23	s
Ch'church	17	63	x	Locarno	3	48	s	Rhodes	19	66	s
Chicago	x			Luxembg	-3	27	sn	Rio de J	29	84	f
Cologne	-1	30	s	Luxor	23	73	s	Riyadh	15	59	s

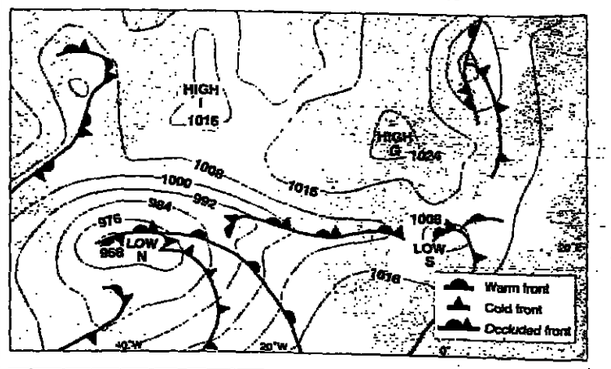
Rome	13	55	c	Sydney	22	72	f	Vienna	-3	27	f
S Fr'sco	13	54	s	Tangier	19	66	c	Warsaw	-10	14	s
S Paulo	25	77	c	Tel Aviv	19	66	s	Wash'ton	-1	30	c
Salzburg	-2	28	sn	Tenerife	23	73	s	Wel'ngton	22	72	x
Santiago	29	84	s	Tokyo	6	43	s	Zurich	-2	28	c
Seoul	2	36	s	Toronto	-7	19	s				
Sing'por	26	77	t	Tunis	19	66	c				
St'kholm	-15	5	s	Valencia	15	59	f				
Strasb'rg	-1	30	c	Vanc'ver	-1	30	f				

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: high I will slowly decline. High G will build and move east. Low N will gradually fill and expand while drifting east. Low S is expected to move east towards Greece



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5.51	6.91	6.33	6.93	Leith	7.16	5.12	7.38	5.14
Aberdeen	8.04	3.93	8.00	4.05	Liverpool	3.30	8.64	3.53	8.76
Avonmouth	11.41	12.10	–	–	Lowestoft	1.12	2.52	2.49	2.22
Belfast	3.44	3.07	4.00	3.32	Margate	4.08	4.58	4.52	4.39
Cardiff	11.28	10.86	11.51	10.38	Milford Haven	10.50	6.53	11.17	6.01
Devonport	10.19	5.17	10.51	5.80	Newquay	9.38	6.18	10.11	5.73
Dover	3.11	6.44	3.42	5.98	Oban	10.14	3.51	10.21	3.10
Dublin	4.16	3.79	4.28	4.07	Penzance	9.11	5.12	9.42	4.73
Falmouth	9.56	4.81	10.28	4.31	Portland	10.57	1.84	11.27	1.62
Glasgow	4.59	4.42	5.22	4.44	Portsmouth	3.46	4.61	4.00	4.29
Harwich	3.56	3.89	4.34	3.81	Shoreham	3.33	5.97	3.56	5.62
Holyhead	2.44	5.03	3.01	5.31	Southampton	3.07	4.32	3.27	4.12
Hull	10.51	6.06	10.57	7.03	Swansea	10.53	8.73	11.15	8.18
Ilfracombe	10.28	8.74	10.50	8.21	Tees	8.30	4.92	8.41	5.01
King's Lynn	10.42	5.86	11.05	6.07	Wilton-on-Nse	3.56	4.00	4.37	3.91

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 8.06 am
Sun sets: 3.58 pm
Moon sets
Moon rises 11.28 am

London 3.58 pm to 8.06 am
Bristol 4.08 pm to 8.16 am
Edinburgh 3.44 pm to 8.44 am
Manchester 3.56 pm to 8.25 am
Penzance 4.26 pm to 8.21 am

First quarter today

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BA still does the business

CLOSE ON the heels of a recent report showing that British holidaymakers get the best and the cheapest air fares in Europe comes a survey by American Express which concludes that business-class air fares from Britain are the lowest in Europe.

A trip of 500 miles from London costs on average 44p a mile compared with 65p a mile from Paris and 77.5p a mile from Geneva. The figures should silence some of those who regularly moan about the high price of flying around Europe on business.

But there are some worrying trends developing. While



The Travel Business

HARVEY ELLIOTT

business air fares generally have risen on average by about 3 per cent during 1995, Britain's airlines have put prices up by 6 per cent.

The second cheapest country in which to buy a business class ticket is Spain, where it costs 51p a mile for an average 500-mile journey. This is of concern to British Airways, which remains convinced that Iberia, the Spanish carrier, is only able to compete because it receives prohibited handouts from the Spanish Government which the European Union appears to sanction.

Sir Colin Marshall, who still has four days to run as BA's chairman and chief executive, was upset last week to hear that the EU had given the go-ahead for a £400 million cash injection for Iberia. He was particularly worried that the company had found a formula which enabled it to claim that it was not receiving state aid.

But, despite so much state cash now propping up its rivals, BA is still the world's most profitable airline, even when its business-class fares are comparatively cheap. So relax, Sir Colin. Let Iberia have its money. You and the new management team can still beat them.

Where you'll holiday in 1996

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

WINTER holidays, especially to America, are proving increasingly popular despite a big fall in the number of summer packages being taken (see below), according to Britain's biggest travel agency chain.

Between now and the end of March, more than 2.6 million people will travel on package holidays in search of either sun or snow — an increase of 7 per cent on last season, Lunn Poly says in its annual survey.

While sales for summer package holidays are stuck in the doldrums, bookings for this winter are booming. America has already grabbed a 10 per cent share of the market compared with 7 per cent at the same time last year.

Italy has seen the strongest growth in ski bookings, mainly at the expense of Austria which has now slipped into second place behind France. Italy is now a close third in popularity with a 20 per cent market-share.

Cruising is also proving an increasingly attractive holiday option. About 350,000 people will have taken a cruise holiday this year compared with 283,000 in 1994 and just 100,000 ten years ago. Over the next four years the numbers are expected to double again, convincing the big tour operators such as Thomson and Airtours to operate their own cruise ships. Bookings are already well beyond their expectations.

The other good news for the travel industry is in the number of short breaks being chosen by holidaymakers who appear no longer to be prepared to take a traditional two-week seaside holiday in a foreign resort.

In all 2.7 million people will have taken a short-break holiday this year with long-haul destinations — especially New York — proving particularly popular.

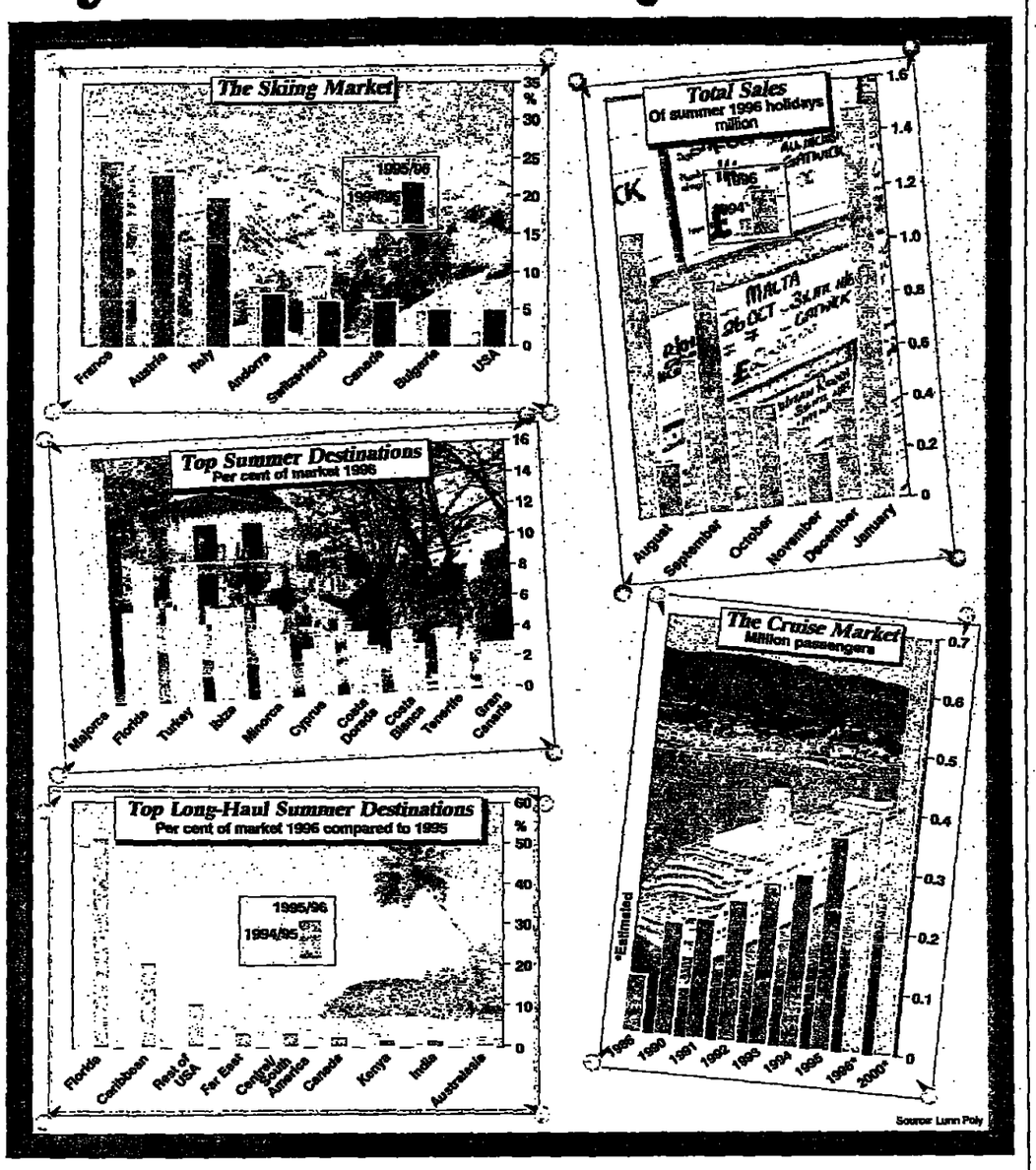
Overall, however, during 1995 the travel industry suffered a static year and no increase in sales. Many tour operators had convinced themselves that the growth of about 12 per cent, to which they had become accustomed since the end of the Gulf War, would continue and they therefore put on additional capacity which they were eventually forced to sell at a discount. The long hot summer also persuaded many late bookers not to bother going abroad.

Spain remained the most popular destination, attracting 42 per cent of the total market in package holidays. Turkey, however, was the success story of the year leaping from sixth to third in the top ten list of most popular countries.

Long-haul holidays booked through travel agents accounted for 10 per cent of all bookings, slightly up on the previous year's figures. The upturn was largely due to Florida's revival which attracted half the long-haul holidaymakers.

Skiing holidays appear to be continuing their slide, with agents reporting a drop of about 10 per cent on last year's sales. Many skiers book late, however, when they see what snow conditions are likely to be. Two years ago Italy had only 15 per cent of the market, but this has dramatically changed. Italian resorts are catching up fast on those in the two most popular countries, France and Austria.

Although it is too early to judge which destinations will prove most popular for 1996, early indications show that America and Turkey are increasing their share of the market. Spain's dominance, so far, appears to have been eroded, possibly because of an increase in hotel prices.



BARGAINS OF THE WEEK

HOLIDAYS

FLY-DRIVE holidays to Florida are available from next Thursday until March 17 for £259 per person for a fortnight with Lunn Poly. The special offer, based on two adults travelling together, includes return flights from Gatwick to Miami and car hire for two weeks. Details: 01203 225888.

☐ SAVINGS of £180 per person are available on a fortnight's holiday in Goa, departing on January 5 with Tropical Places. The new price, including bed and breakfast in a four-star hotel, is £699. Details: 01342 825123.

☐ FIRST CHOICE has cut up to £20 off its initial brochure price for holidays to Greece next year and there are more "two weeks for the price of one" offers in its second edition brochure. Details: 01293 560777.

☐ TENERIFE, popular with British visitors for Christmas this year, is available at bargain prices for 14 nights from Inspirations Holidays. Departures are from Gatwick and Manchester on January 12. Costs of £239 and £270 respectively include self-catering accommodation. Details: 01293 822244.

☐ ORLANDO for a fortnight on a room-only basis costs from £349 per person on flights from Birmingham and Manchester on January 5 with Unijet Travel. Details: 01444 459000.

☐ BOOK your main summer holiday before January 31 with Advantage Travel Centres, the largest group of independent travel agents, and you will be offered a free short break, including stays in Paris or Brussels via Eurostar. Details: 0800 600900.

FLIGHTS

ROUND-THE-world air tickets from £872 are being offered by STA Travel for departures between March and June. The itinerary includes flights from London to Johannesburg, on to Perth and Sydney, land travel to Cairns and flights, which must be taken before June 15, to Pacific destinations and back to London. Details: 0171-361 6262.

☐ EASYJET plans to start Luton-Aberdeen flights early next month at cost-cutting prices similar to the £29 one-way fares it already offers between Luton and Edinburgh and Glasgow. Details: 01582 445566.

☐ FLIGHTS to Malaysia on the national airline will be available at a cut-price £485 return from Travel Warehouse in February. Details: 0171-414 8808.

☐ BRITISH Airways has introduced a lower Tel Aviv business-class fare of £723 for those staying away for two days or more, a saving of £201. Details: 0181-897 4000.

☐ AIR FRANCE has extended its offer of free parking at London City Airport for passengers flying to Paris. Details: 0181-742 6600.

☐ GULF Air's telephone check-in service is up and running at Heathrow for first and business-class travellers to Bahrain and beyond. If they call three hours before departure, they need only report at the airport 40 minutes before the flight. Check-in no: 0181-759 4719.

HOTELS

GET ROOM service from the kitchens of Le Gavroche, one of London's most prestigious restaurants, when staying in the residential suites at 47 Park Street. The hotel, located above the restaurant in the heart of Mayfair, is offering a special rate until January 7 of a one-bedroom suite for £170 plus VAT, compared with the normal rate of £255 plus VAT. Details: 0171-491 7282.

☐ THE Lodge at Vail, Colorado, which claims to be the only hotel within walking distance of the resort's ski slopes, is offering rates up to 40 per cent off for guests who stay more than four nights between January 13 and 31. The promotional room rates start at £145 per room per night and include breakfast. Details: 001 970 476 5011.

☐ CHEWTON Glen at New Milton, in Hampshire, is offering rooms at £129 a night, instead of £185, in January. The price includes a continental breakfast and use of the health club and golf course. Details: 01425 275341.

☐ THE Classic rooms are available at £99 a night at Gleneagles in Tayside from January 4 to 31. Reductions on four-poster bedrooms and suites are also available. Guests travelling to the hotel from within Scotland qualify for free rail travel. Details: 01764 662231.

☐ THE Chelsea Hotel in Knightsbridge is offering a special rate of £79 per person per night, including VAT, until February 12, based on two people sharing a double room. The price includes a glass of champagne on arrival and English breakfast. The hotel is also undergoing a £10 million renovation. Details: 0171-235 4377.

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Book now, pay later

TRAVEL AGENTS and tour operators across Britain are anxiously watching for the first signs of a post-Christmas surge in holiday bookings. *Harvey Elliott writes.*

Without at least an indication that families are prepared to commit themselves to a holiday in the sun in 1996, the industry may be forced to accept that Britain has turned its back on the traditional package holiday.

So far bookings are down by at least 25 per cent compared with Christmas last year, and even the wildest optimists are convinced that the final number of package holidays taken next year will be at least 10 per cent fewer than this. The few days between Christmas and the new year are regarded as crucial in establishing a pattern for the future.

Much will depend on the success of a range of new measures designed to stimulate early bookings.

Thomson, for example, has introduced a scheme known as "fluid pricing", which came into effect yesterday. This turns on its head the traditional idea of holidays coming down in price the nearer to the departure date. Now, more than a million holidays will be heavily discounted immediately they go on sale and gradually increase in price if demand grows.

Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director, said that late discounts were introduced to top up the last few seats on a flight. "Over the past few years things have got out of hand. Unless we turn the tide now, I fear that within a few years there will be no early booking market left," he told travel agents in a letter.

Lunn Poly is offering 10 per cent free insurance or a "buy now, pay before you fly" instalment scheme. Other tour operators and travel agencies are also cutting prices and offering a range of special offers to win early bookers. The indications so far, however, are not good.

In an effort to convince holidaymakers to hurry, agencies and operators say that because 1.5 million holidays have been withdrawn from the market there will inevitably be a shortage.

"Late bargains will be harder to come by," Jamie Moffat, the managing director of A. T. Mays, said. "We recommend holidaymakers to book now and take advantage of the discounts on offer."

Kevin Ivie, group marketing director of First Choice, said: "The message is always book early or you'll miss out — but for summer 1996 this is more the case than ever before."

Research by Consumer Surveys shows that the traditional holiday market is on the decline and people are losing the inclination to lie on a beach all day. The company says that over the past three years, the number of people saying they plan to take a package holiday abroad has fallen by 48 per cent.

The industry is maintaining a calm front and predicting that by the end of the summer the number of package holidays sold through travel agents will be about 8.4 million compared with 9.3 million in 1995.

Significantly, the discounts now on offer are generally smaller than at the same time last year, reflecting the reduction in the number of holidays on offer.

Should you wait in the hope that prices tumble? Or should you buy now in the expectation that the best holidays will have gone within the next few weeks? The choice, as they say on *Blind Date*, is yours.

WEEKEND TRAVEL SPECIAL

Travel the world again on nine new year travel pages in Weekend on Saturday

Brian MacArthur on the up-and-coming destinations for adventurous travellers

Cruising in Burgundy, weekending in Nice, holidaying in Corsica

Walking in Catalonia, exploring the Pyrenees

Adventure in the Sinai Desert; skiing in Sweden



Company pensions 'rising by 3%'

BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

INCREASES in company pension benefits averaged just over 3 per cent this year, according to research findings published today. The study comes ahead of the application of limited price indexation safeguards being applied to pensions.

While company pension schemes are currently not obliged to increase pensions to compensate for the effects of inflation — the new part-indexation under the 1995 Pension Act will start to apply from April 1997 — the analysis by Incomes Data Services (IDS), the pay research company, shows that the great majority of company pension schemes guarantee at least some increase.

IDS says that while almost no schemes outside the public sector offered full inflation-proofing to pensions, most company schemes provided for inflation-matching up to a particular level — usually 5 per cent.

On individual schemes, the study says that at the top of the scale Glaxo's pension scheme guarantees to match inflation at up to 12 per cent a year, while Shell's and Peugeot Talbot's promise protection against an inflation rate of 7 per cent.

Some schemes guarantee a fixed rise regardless of inflation, with Allied Domecq, Calor Gas, Grand Metropolitan, Legal & General, RHM and Scottish Equitable all guaranteeing increases of 3 per cent.

This year, the analysis of increases awarded to more than 1.5 million pensioners receiving benefits from a sample of largely blue chip companies, ranging from Abbey National to Vauxhall, shows an average increase of 3.1 per cent. The sample range covered rises of zero to 5 per cent.

According to the study, the highest pension rises this year were 5 per cent for pensioners in the schemes run by Ernst & Young, and JW Spear. Two other schemes, at John Lewis and Rover, also awarded rises of more than 4 per cent to their pensioners.

Some schemes guaranteed special additional rises to targetted groups of older pensioners. ICI, for example, awarded from November an extra 1.5 per cent to pre-1974 pensioners.

Government forecast for growth 'too optimistic'

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CITY and independent forecasters are unanimous in disputing the Government's Budget forecasts for growth and consumer spending next year, according to a comparison of predictions compiled by the Treasury.

The Government is forecasting 3 per cent growth in gross domestic product next year, powered by a 3.5 per cent rise in consumer spending. But an average of 43 outside forecasts predicts growth of 2.4 per cent and consumer spending of no more than 2.7 per cent. In the case of consumer spending, not a single outside forecast matches the optimism of the Treasury.

The future path of consumer spending is at the core of the current economic debate because it is the component of economic growth thast the Treasury is relying on most to deliver its growth forecast. Discussion of consumer spending was heightened by news in the week before Christmas that the savings ratio had fallen sharply in the third quarter to 8.6 per cent form 9.3 per cent, reaching its lowest level since the third quarter of 1990.

Some analysts attributed this partly to the £1.8 billion bonus paid to customers of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society when it was taken over by Lloyd's. This bonus is not included statistically in total personal disposable income, which rose by 0.2 per cent in the third quarter, but could have helped account for a robust rise of 1 per cent in consumer spending.

The prospect of more bank and building society merger bonuses being paid out next year — as well as the £50 electricity rebate from the sale of the National Grid — is one reason for the Treasury's optimism on consumer spending. Another is its assumption that incomes will rise.

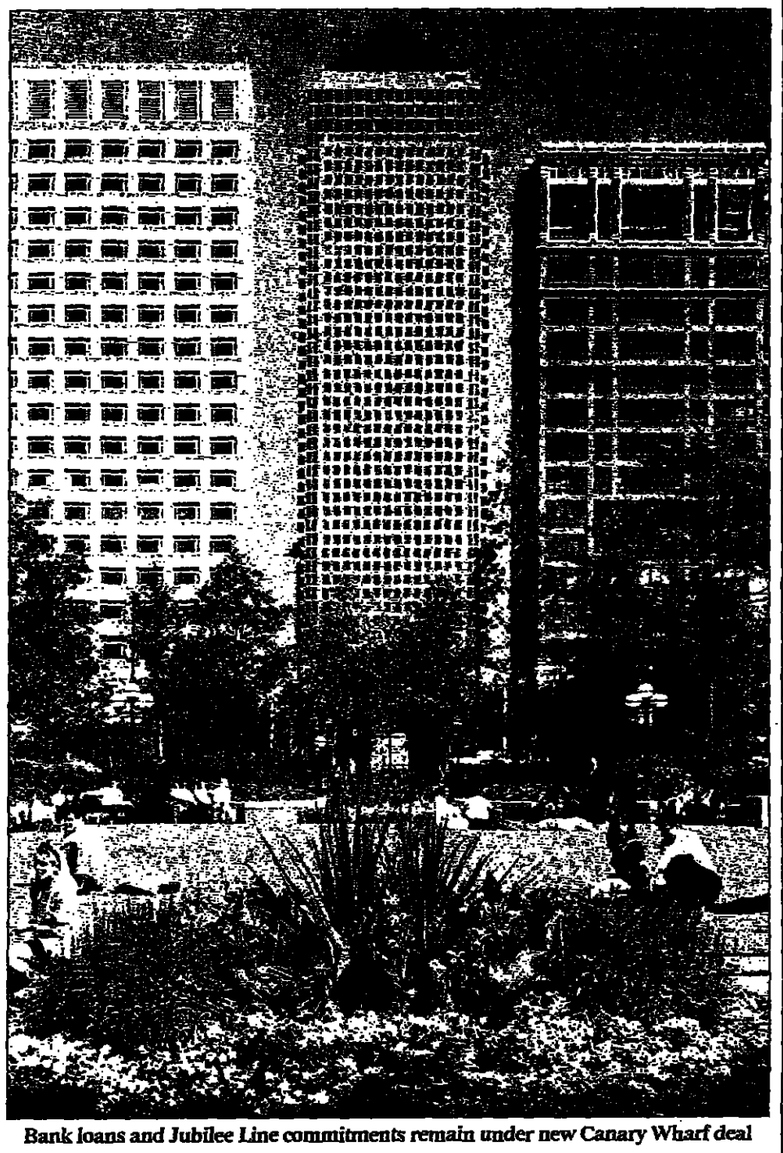
Douglas McWilliams, chief executive of the Centre for Economics and Business Research, agrees broadly with this prognosis although he is still less optimistic than the Treasury, with a forecast of 3 per cent growth in consumer spending next year.

He said that bonuses, the electricity rebate and cuts in taxation and interest rates will combine to produce an unusually large surge in real disposable income. He added that once proper adjustment is made for the cash payments, income will rise next year by a larger amount than in any year since 1989.

However, there are counter-arguments being voiced in the City. Don Smith, of HSBC Markets, said there is a danger that the pain being experienced by British companies has yet to be passed on to the personal sector in the form of lower earnings or job insecurity.

National Accounts for the third quarter showed the financial surplus of industrial and commercial companies had fallen to £2.45 billion, the lowest for two years. Profits were 2.2 per cent down on the second quarter and 5.3 per cent lower than a year ago.

Mr Smith said it is difficult to predict how British companies will respond to the pressure of slow growth. But he pointed out that the flexible labour market means that employment is extremely vulnerable to the economic downturn. He said that it would not take much to push employment growth back into negative territory and that this would have a significant knock-on effect on the consumer.



Bank loans and Jubilee Line commitments remain under new Canary Wharf deal

Canary sale completed

BY MARTIN BARROW

LENDERS to the Canary Wharf Group yesterday completed the sale of the landmark development in London's Docklands to the International Property Corporation (IPC) consortium.

Under the agreement the European Investment Bank will maintain its loans to the Canary Wharf development. IPC will assume the £300 million commitment to London Regional Transport for completion of the Jubilee Line extension to the London Underground network.

The Canary Wharf bank lenders announced the sale of the development for £600 million in October when IPC began the process of due diligence.

IPC's partners include Paul Reichmann, the original developer of Canary Wharf, Prince al-Waleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, a nephew of King Fahd, and Michael Price, the US fund manager.

The banks, which took control of the huge development in 1992 after it went into administration, will recover about 95p in the pound of the debts that they are owed.

Housing hopefuls shot down by Labour

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

THE Nationwide Building Society will today announce it expects house prices to increase by 3 per cent next year. Its prediction echoes that of the Halifax, the UK's biggest building society, which said it expected a more modest 2 per cent increase next year.

However, both estimates have drawn the fire of the Labour Party, which says there will be no recovery in house prices in 1996.

Nick Raynsford, Shadow Housing Minister, said: "The independent Organisation for Economic Development and Co-operation (OECD) has already said the Government's predictions for the economy in 1996 are far too optimistic. With economic growth faltering — and predicted to be below the OECD average — current hopes of recovery in the housing market in 1996 may prove as elusive as the forecast return of the 'feel-good' factor."

He added: "Those who are predicting any kind of recovery are doing so on very flimsy evidence." He said the number of households, according to figures from UBS Global Research, with negative equity (with loans greater than the value of their houses) increased from 1.2 million to more than 1.4 million in the last quarter of this year. This figure is about 400,000 higher than the Bank of England's estimate, which is more commonly used by analysts.

The high number of households with negative equity is believed to be one of the main factors holding back house price recovery.

The building societies do not have a sparkling track record on guessing the trend of house prices. At the beginning of the year, both the Halifax and the Nationwide were confidently estimating that prices would rise by 2 per cent in 1995. In fact, they fell 1 per cent.

They claim their estimates will be more accurate for 1996 because house prices tend to be linked with earnings. The package of tax cuts delivered by the Government in this year's Budget will increase income, and so house prices should rise accordingly. They also say interest rates could fall again. Gary Marsh, Halifax economist, said: "At the beginning of this year there was a feeling interest rates would rise. This has not happened and we believe interest rates could come down further."

He and other economists said they had misread the market last year because they had underestimated the effect of changes in social security, which cut the amount of state help given to homeowners claiming income support.

Pennington, page 23

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Insurers escape in year of disasters

THE cost of damage caused by natural disasters, ranging from floods and earthquakes to storms and volcanic eruptions, trebled to $180 billion this year, according to latest estimates. But in spite of the upsurge in catastrophes, insurers suffered less than in 1994. Worldwide claims payouts fell to $14 billion in 1995 from $17 billion in 1994, mainly because insurance cover in the worst-hit regions was comparatively low.

Munich Re, the world's largest reinsurer, said the Kobe earthquake in Japan, which killed more than 6,000 people in January, was the most expensive disaster to date, wreaking about $100 billion worth of damage. The firm registered almost 600 disasters in 1995, compared with 580 in 1994. Floods in Germany, tropical storms in the Caribbean, the United States and east Asia, along with various earthquakes, hailstorms, floods and volcanic eruptions throughout the world, cost further billions of dollars. Munich Re said: "1995 will enter the books as a record year in the history of natural disasters."

US confidence dips

CONSUMER confidence in America fell in December as the holiday season failed to brighten Americans' outlook on the economy, the Conference Board reported yesterday. The global research and business group said its US consumer confidence index fell to 98.7 from a revised 101.6 reading in November. The widely watched expectations component of the index fell to 91.7 from a revised 92.5 last month. The present situation component slid to 109.2 from a revised 115.3 last time. "Overall, the consumer confidence index has hovered around the 100 mark throughout the year," said Edgar Fiedler, vice-president.

Crash killed Siebe man

BRIAN McMAHON, the divisional president and chief operating officer of Siebe Diversified Products, was among the 160 people killed in the crash of an American Airlines Boeing 757 in Colombia on December 20, it was disclosed yesterday. Mr McMahon, who started working for Siebe in 1993, was travelling to join his family for Christmas, the company said. "During his time with Siebe, Brian made an enormous contribution to the success of the companies under his control," said Allen Yurko, the managing director of the Siebe group.

Pensions change urged

THE National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) has called for a fairer division of pensions on marriage break-up. David Morgan, NAPF vice-chairman, has written to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, urging him to amend the Family Law Bill. Mr Morgan said: "We need a scheme which will give divorcees the retirement income when they need it, not when their former partners need theirs. The Court should be given wider powers so that they can direct that part of the pension should be used to buy a pension for the ex-wife, or ex-husband where appropriate."

Mark hits Mercedes

MERCEDES-BENZ, the German luxury car maker, expects 1995 group sales to total about DM72 billion, compared with DM70.7 billion the previous year. The subsidiary of Daimler Benz said the strong mark would burden 1995 results by more than DM1 billion, although profits are expected to rise from the previous year's DM1.85 billion. The company said problems caused by the stronger mark were largely offset by internal measures. Mercedes's 1995 car deliveries total 580,000, compared with 592,356 last year, with truck deliveries of more than 320,000 (290,354).

Pemberstone buys flats

PEMBERSTONE, the specialist investment and property management group, has made its first acquisition since its shares were floated on the stock market in September. It is paying a total of £11.7 million for First Roman Property Trust, Second Roman Property Trust and Third Roman Property Trust. The companies own 303 flats let predominantly on assured tenancy for sheltered housing, mainly in northwest England and north Wales, and earned £371,000 before tax in the half-year to September 30. New Pemberstone shares will be issued at 66p.

Delay for China-jet bidders

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A DECISION on the hard-fought battle by western aerospace companies to partner China and Korea in building a new 100-seat jet has been postponed until March.

Although executives at the rival bidders, including British Aerospace, had been expecting to see a shortlist before the year-end, a spokesman for China Aviation Industries announced yesterday that there would be a three-month delay.

The deferral will heighten the difficulties of Daimler-Benz Aerospace as it struggles to chart a future for Fokker, its troubled jet subsidiary. Daimler had hoped that victory would enable a production line to be set up at Fokker, while a second production centre in Asia would build identical aircraft.

But AIR, the joint regional aircraft marketing company formed by British Aerospace, Aérospatiale of France and Alenia of Italy countered with an offer to assemble all the aircraft in the Far East. Both Boeing and McDonnell Douglas of America are also competing to partner China Aviation and its collaborator, Korean Commercial Aircraft Development Consortium.

The outcome of the contest will determine how the restructuring of Europe's regional aircraft industry is completed. If one of the European bidders wins, it is expected to form the nucleus of a merged European industry. If Boeing is successful, AIR plans to develop a rival aircraft. In that event, Daimler is expected to throw in its lot with AIR.

Tokyo shares pass 20,000

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SHARE prices in Tokyo breached the 20,000 barrier, rising to their highest level in 14 months. The Nikkei stock average of 225 select issues rose 107.04 points, or 0.5 per cent, to end the session at 20,011.76, the first close above the psychologically important 20,000 line since October 13 last year.

"It's significant that the key barometer rose past the psychological resistance point," said Yasuo Ueki, of Nikko Securities Co. After what he described as "a severe year", Masayoshi Takemura, the Finance Minister, commented: "I will be happy to greet a new year if stock and currency markets reach year-before levels."

At the end of 1994, the Nikkei index was hovering at about 20,000 points, while the dollar was slightly below 100 yen, compared with the present level of about 102.50 yen. Mr Takemura said that the yen was still easing from highs of about 80 yen to the dollar early this year.

Industrial production in Japan increased 1.3 per cent from the previous month, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) reported yesterday.

The preliminary outcome for November was better than MITI's earlier forecast of a 0.1 per cent decline in the month. The ministry forecast that industrial output in December would rise 0.5 per cent from November, and would increase a further 0.5 per cent in January.

Tempus, page 24

TIMES NEWSPAPERS COMPETITION

YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME AN INSTANT MILLIONAIRE



10,000 Lottery tickets to be won

It is a roll-over this week, so first prize in the Lottery could be as much as £23 million. Now you can enter our exclusive competition for an even better chance of being the lucky winner. The Times has entered 10,000 tickets in Saturday's draw and the prizes will be allocated like this:

One first prize of 5,000 £1 tickets

Five runners-up prizes of 1,000 £1 tickets

The Times will hold the randomly generated numbers on computer which will work out if any are winners. If they are, the readers who won Times tickets will be contacted immediately. The lottery competition runs all week and every day we will publish a different question. Today's question is:

Who made an unexpected appearance on Christmas Day?

a) Frank Bough b) Frank Bruno c) Frank Butcher

Phone your answer on the number below, open 24 hours a day and until 3pm on Saturday. All correct answers to all five days' questions will go into the draw and winners will be randomly selected. Normal Times Newspapers rules apply.

PHONE YOUR ANSWER ON: 0891 40 50 49

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at all other times

PA to pay out £19m

A SIX-YEAR wrangle with the taxman has ended in a £19 million payout to shareholders in the Press Association, the national news agency.

The special dividend comes after protracted talks with the Inland Revenue over how much tax was due on the PA's former 41 per cent stake in Reuters, the financial information and news agency.

PA's 46 shareholders, mainly national and regional newspaper groups, have received a total of £500 million already for the holding in Reuters, which was floated in 1984. A £20 million provision was made by PA to settle a possible capital gains tax bill on the shares.

Since 1989, when the second batch of Reuters shares was sold, the agency has been in talks with the Revenue over the tax liability. The issue was the presumed value of each Reuters share in March 1982, but before the shares were traded on the stock market.

A compromise had to be reached by the end of this month to make the most of the taxation rules and a deal was struck on December 14.

Letters were sent before Christmas to PA's shareholders, telling them that more than 90 per cent of the tax provision, amounting to £19 million, could be released.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.18	2.02
Austria Sch	16.70	15.20
Belgium Fr	48.80	44.50
Canada $	2.225	2.065
Cyprus Cypf	0.748	0.691
Denmark Kr	9.25	8.45
Finland Mkk	7.31	6.66
France Fr	8.05	7.40
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.67	11.67
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.3000	4.8500
Italy Lire	2571.00	2419.00
Japan Yen	171.90	155.90
Malta	0.692	0.537
Netherlds Gld	2.649	2.419
New Zealand $	2.53	2.31
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	243.50	225.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.44
Spain Pta	196.00	183.00
Sweden Kr	10.94	10.14
Switzerland Fr	1.93	1.75
Turkey Lira	refer	84435.0
USA $	1.663	1.523

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
S MAYER PLC
REGISTERED NUMBER: 2470366
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of S Mayer PLC will be held at 10.00am on 11 January 1996 at Price Waterhouse, Abbey House, 74 Whitley Street, Manchester, M2 3EH for the purposes mentioned in Section 48 and 49 of the said Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must provide details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to IC Powell at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12.00 noon on 10 January 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
A form of proxy and a copy of the receivers' report can be obtained (free of charge) from IC Powell at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 20th day of December 1995.
I C Powell, Joint Administrative Receiver

H-G HOLDINGS LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
FORMERLY KNOWN AS HAWSON-GARNER LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,
pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named company will be held at 4th Floor, St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH at 10.30am on 5th January 1996 for the purposes of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the administrative receivers under the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a creditors committee to exercise the functions conferred on creditors' committees by or under the Act.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge with me at 4th Floor, St Alphage House, 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5DH no later than 12 noon on 4th January 1996 details of the debts they claim to be due to them by the company, together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting.
19th December 1996
Ladbiay Harman
Joint Administrative Receiver
Note: Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.

HAMPSHIRE PARTITIONING SERVICES LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above company, in accordance with the provisions of Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, will be held at the Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 3QQ on 22 January 1996 at 10.30 am. The purpose of the meeting are to receive a statement of affairs and a report on the company from a director and if the creditors wish to do so, to nominate a liquidator and appoint a liquidation committee.
David John Stennett of Price Waterhouse, The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 3QG will provide a creditor free of charge with information concerning the company's affairs that they may reasonably require
Proxies for use at the meeting must be returned to The Quay, 30 Channel Way, Ocean Village, Southampton, Hampshire, SO14 3QG by 19 January 1996 at 12 pm and claims must be made in writing and may be made to the same address.
By order of the board
Mr S Doss, Director
Dated 21/12/95
Note: Any creditor who has not recieved notice of the meeting and who wishes to attend or be represented at it should ring 01703 330077 to obtain the necessary forms.

No. 1998 - N - 0520
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
MANCHESTER DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF NORWEST HOUST CONSTRUCTION LIMITED
- and -
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated the 19th December 1995 confirming the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £47,600,000 to £889,918 and the Minute approved by the Court showing with respect to the capital of the Company as altered the several particulars required by the above-mentioned Act were registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 21st December 1995.
Dated this 21st day of December 1995
Alison Wilkinson of 11 St James's Street, Manchester M2 6DS (Ref: AJH/MJ/C.0534.476) Solicitors for the above-named Company

No. 006527 of 1995
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF PROTEAN plc AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 5th day of December 1995 confirming the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company from £20,017,364 to £5,817,364 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on the 11th day of December 1995.
McKenna & Co of Mitre House, 160 Aldersgate Street, London EC1A 4DD
Solicitors for Protean plc

PUBLIC NOTICES
SEX DISCRIMINATION ACT 1975 - Public Notice for an application to amend the Objects of the Royal Grammar School Worcester School Charity (Registered No 527527)
An application has been made by the Governors of the Royal Grammar School Worcester to the Secretary of State for Education and Employment for an order under Section 78 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 to amend the Objects of the School Charity to include the education of girls up to and including the age of 8 only. A copy of the draft order and the scheme containing the Objects of the School Charity may be inspected at the Royal Grammar School Worcester.
Any person wishing to make representations to the Secretary of State regarding the proposed order may do so by sending them to the Legal Branch, Department for Education and Employment, Castle House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NF within one month of the date of this notice.
Notice dated 28 December 1995

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171-782 7344
FAX: 0171-782 7827
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

Protecting rights of infant in settlement

McDermott International Inc v Hardy

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Auld and Mr Justice Macpherson of Cluny

[Judgment December 11]

Order 80, rules 10 and 11 of the Rules of the Supreme Court provided a coherent, comprehensive and exhaustive scheme for the approval by the High Court of the settlement of a claim for money by a person under a disability, which included an infant, and the object of such approval was to ensure that the infant's or patient's interests were properly protected.

Where circumstances showed that, in a proposed settlement of a Fatal Accidents Acts claim, not all the dependants had been included, that one of the parties was known to be reluctant to agree to the settlement and that there was an outstanding challenge to its validity in a court of competent jurisdiction, the High Court would not grant approval.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when it dismissed the plaintiff company's appeal from the order of Sir Peter Pain, sitting as a deputy High Court judge on October 31, 1994: (i) refusing to grant a declaratory judgment, (ii) dismissing its application for summary judgment and (iii) striking out its writ and statement of claim.

The application sought to uphold the provisional settlement of a claim in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana, on October 13, 1992, made between the plaintiff and Mrs Julie Hardy which, subject to approval in the English High Court, purported to settle all claims in the sum of US$2.9 million she and her three infant children might have against the plaintiff, including any actions in the United Kingdom, following the death of her husband when a derrick barge on which he was working, and operated by the plaintiff, sank in the South China Seas in August 1991.

Mr Stewart Boyd, QC and Miss Philippa Hopkins for the plaintiff: Mr Robin Stewart, QC and Mr Eliot Woolf for Mrs Hardy.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN, giving the judgment of the court, said that in May 1993 Mrs Hardy applied to set aside the settlement in Louisiana on the ground, inter alia, it was inadequate.

The plaintiff issued a writ in England in July 1994 claiming a declaration the High Court had power and jurisdiction to approve the settlement agreement, applying subsequently for summary judgment. Mrs Hardy cross-applied to strike out the writ.

Sir Peter Pain, when concluding it was inappropriate to grant a declaration, expressed opinions to the effect the High Court would not have had jurisdiction to entertain any application for approval, if made, by Mrs Hardy unless and until the court in Louisiana declined to set aside the agreement, and the settlement provided also for the deceased's former wife and two children and any other dependants who had not yet disclaimed: the deceased's parents.

Subsequently, the settlement was set aside in Louisiana in March 1995 on the ground, inter alia, that its approval by the High Court, despite Mrs Hardy's inquiries as to its possibility, had not and could not be met, and a trial on damages began there in November 1995.

His Lordship noted two separate and distinct aspects of the case which had become confused and conflated, namely, under what circumstances in English law Mrs Hardy could have obtained High Court approval had she sought it, and what exactly the plaintiffs were asking the court to declare.

His Lordship said that it was implicit in Order 80, rule 10 that the High Court had power to approve a settlement, and equally plainly the object of such approval was to ensure proper protection of the infant's or patient's interests; and the effect of such approval was to free the defendant from future claims by providing him with a valid release.

The interrelation of rules 10 and 11 was also plain: rule 11 provided the machinery by which, if early agreement was reached, it was possible to avoid a writ action by proceeding instead by originating summons: rule 10, which both dictated the need for approval and conferred the power of approval, applied equally to proceedings whether by writ or by originating summons.

The scheme in Order 80 was coherent, comprehensive and, in the area in which routinely it operated including Fatal Accidents Acts claims, exhaustive. His Lordship rejected the plaintiff's submission that the court enjoyed in addition an inherent jurisdiction outside the ambit of the rules, thereby escaping their built-in protection.

Mr Boyd contended, inter alia, that, although Mrs Hardy could not properly have brought an action under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 without the former wife's cooperation, since by section 2 only one action lay following the deceased's death, she and each of her children had claims, the settlement of which could have been approved under the rules.

His Lordship, noting that the claim and the approval under Order 80, rule 11 were plainly distinct, and that it was clear that each dependant had an individual claim (see *Avery v London and North Eastern Railway Co* ([1938] AC 606)), said that all rule 11 provided for was an alternative mechanism for getting the proposed settlement before the court.

Instead of proceedings by writ, it permitted proceedings by originating summons. But both forms of proceeding were equally actions and any settlement of the proceedings would accordingly operate to bar an action by any other dependants seeking damages under the 1976 Act.

Thus Mrs Hardy could no more properly have issued an originating summons under rule 11 than a writ, under Order 5, rule 2. Either course, leading to approval by the court, would necessarily have shut out all future claims by the former wife and her two children, and indeed by the parents.

Manifestly, therefore, the court would have refused to approve any such settlement, and equally obviously Mrs Hardy could not be criticised for not having made the relevant application.

As Mr Stewart submitted, there was an additional reason why in any event no court would have approved the settlement. Although each dependant did have his or her own individual dependency claim, the amount to which he or she was properly entitled could not be determined in isolation and, as far as dependant minors were concerned, would not be approved in isolation.

Furthermore, Mrs Hardy would not in fact have been a willing applicant for approval given that she had come to regret the agreement. Even though under Louisiana law she might have been obliged to put forward the agreement for approval, it would not follow that the English court, alive to her reluctance, would have granted it.

Moreover, his Lordship agreed with Sir Peter Pain's conclusion that the court had no jurisdiction to approve a settlement the enforceability of which was challenged in a court of competent jurisdiction, the Louisiana court.

Finally as to the form of declaration sought, his Lordship noted the general principle, as stated in *Gouriet v Union of Post Office Workers* ([1978] AC 435, 501): "...the jurisdiction of the court is not to declare the law generally or to give advisory opinions; it is confined to declaring contested legal rights, subsisting or future, of the parties ... before it ...", and recognised that there were authorities appearing to establish that the court would on occasion grant declarations essentially in aid of a foreign court.

However, the central and decisive objection to the declaration in the present case was that not only did it lack practical utility so as to be in a real sense academic: in addition, by calculatedly distancing itself from many of the difficulties in the path of a successful application for approval, and by inviting the court to look exclusively at jurisdiction and not discretion, it was all to liable to mislead a foreign court as to the true position in English law.

Solicitors: Ince & Co: Boote Edgar Esterkin, Manchester.

Loss of moonlighting cannot be claimed

Hunter v Butler

Before Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Hobhouse

[Judgment December 19]

Where the widow of a deceased claimed for damages under the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 for the death of her husband, there was no liability for loss of dependency in respect of undeclared earnings, commonly called "moonlighting", or for housing benefit and supplementary benefit on the ground that she was dependent on him for those sums and had lost them as a result of his death.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing in part an appeal by Mrs Maria Hunter, administratrix of the estate of Kenneth Hunter, deceased, from a judgment of District Judge Moon, Torquay District Registry, awarding damages of £6,575, but refusing to include in the sum awarded any amount for the loss of dependency.

Mr Michael de Navarro, QC and Mr James Hayward for Mrs Hunter; Mr William Stevenson for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that the appeal arose from the death of Mr Kenneth Hunter in a motor accident on December 9, 1983. Liability was admitted by the driver of the vehicle concerned. The deceased left a widow and six children.

From July 1983 until his death the deceased worked part-time, earning some £90 a week. He did not disclose those earnings to the social security authorities from whom he continued to draw benefit at the full rate.

His Lordship said that he would allow the appeal in respect of the first two issues, namely the district judge's finding (a) that the deceased had a nil prospect of employment, and (b) the calculation of the lost chance of full-time earnings, which was not an issue considered by the district judge but arose from his finding on the first issue, and would award a total of £12,480 under those heads.

On the third issue, namely whether the loss of eligibility (a) for supplementary benefit and/or (b) the proceeds of moonlighting should be included as a further head of damage for loss of dependency, he found the argument in respect of (a) to be wholly untenable.

In respect of supplementary benefit, the widow was in no sense dependent on the deceased. She, no less than he, was dependent in that regard on the state. The argument was not assisted by the decision of the Court of Appeal in *Hassall v Secretary of State for Social Security* ([1995] 1 WLR 813).

With regard to (b) Mr de Navarro contended that in the event of the second issue being answered, as it had been, in a way which resulted in a percentage abatement being applied to the figure which would have been obtained by assuming the deceased to be in full-time work, the appellant was entitled to have the shortfall made good by treating lost undeclared earnings as a head of lost dependency.

His argument was that the abatement reflected an assumption that the deceased would, had he lived, have been fully employed for half the time and dependent on social security and undisclosed earnings from part-time work for the remainder of the time.

On that hypothesis, the appellant and his other dependents should be treated as having been dependent pro tanto on the proceeds of anticipated earnings from moonlighting during the weeks when he was assumed to be out of full-time work. He referred in support of that submission on a discussion in *Kemp and Kemp The Quantum of Damages* at paragraph 25-006 and the New Zealand decision of *Le Bagge v Buses* ([1958] NZLR 630) there mentioned.

His Lordship rejected the submission on two grounds:

1 It read too much into the process of abatement applied in calculating the lost chance of full-time earnings under the second issue. The abatement was made solely to reflect the exigencies of chance, and it was over-sophisticated to introduce into the calculation some notional apportionment between weeks worked for a declared wage and weeks supported by supplementary benefit and undeclared part-time earnings.

2 It offended public policy in two respects.

First, it assumed that someone who had committed fraud in the past would continue to do so in the future; ignoring the possibilities of repentance or detection.

Second, it treated the proceeds of illegally concealed earnings as providing a valid head of recovery by way of damages for loss or injury.

When due account was taken of the need for judges to avoid *subjective moral judgments and to* accept the realities of life in the modern welfare state, there remained certain fundamental principles essential to any just and civilised society which provide the rails within which the unruliest horse may safely run.

When Lord Wright in *Davies v Powell Duffryn Associated Collieries Ltd* ([1942] AC 601, 617) spoke of the "damages proportioned to the injury" for which provision was made by what is now section 3(1) of the 1976 Act as being "a hard matter of pounds, shillings and pence, subject to the element of reasonable future probabilities" the pounds of which he spoke were those derived from wages honestly earned or income honestly received.

Lord Justice Hobhouse delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Hirst agreed.

Solicitors: Hyde Mahon Bridges for Lee-Barber Goodrich & Co, Torquay: Beachcroft Stanleys for Cann & Hallett, Exeter.

Cost of negotiation or appeal cannot be deducted

Couch (Inspector of Taxes) v Administrators of the Estate of P. S. Caton (deceased)

Before Mr Justice Rimer

[Judgment December 20]

For the purpose of computing the amount of a chargeable gain on the disposal of assets, section 32 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979 did not permit any deductions to be made from the consideration received any expenditure incurred by the taxpayer in negotiating the value of the assets or in pursuing an appeal before the commissioners relating to their value.

Mr Justice Rimer so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when allowing an appeal by originating motion by the Crown from the determination of a special commissioner that had upheld in principle an appeal by the taxpayers, the administrators of the estate of Mr P. S. Caton, deceased, against an assessment to capital gains tax in the sum of £494,430.

Section 32 of the 1979 Act, headed "Expenditure: general", provides by subsection (2), inter alia, for the deduction from the consideration received on the disposal of an asset "(b) costs reasonably incurred in making any valuation ... including in particular, expenses reasonably incurred in ascertaining market value where required by this Act".

Mr Launcelot Henderson, QC, for the Crown; Mr William Massey for the taxpayers.

MR JUSTICE RIMER said that Mr Caton had died in September 1987. At his death he owned 2,495,552 shares in an unquoted company, Yorkshire Switchgear Group Ltd.

By section 49 of the Act the taxpayers were deemed to have acquired the shares on Mr Caton's death for a consideration equal to their then market value.

In April 1988 the shares were sold, the consideration received by the taxpayers being £3,269,173. The chargeable gain was the consideration received by the taxpayers less the deductions allowable by section 32 of the Act.

The only question was as to the correctness of the commissioner's decision as to the deductibility of costs. For the taxpayers it was contended that the relevant words in section 32(2)(b) extended not only to the costs of the initial valuation of the shares but also, where the value proposed by the taxpayers was not accepted, to the costs of a negotiated valuation with the Revenue or, if there was none, of any appeal in so far as it was concerned with the issue of valuation.

Certainly the costs referred to in the relevant part of subsection (2) included the costs of the initial valuation carried out by the taxpayers to determine the value of the relevant shares so that the chargeable gain could be computed.

However, the costs which a taxpayer might subsequently incur in negotiating, whether successfully or not, the question of value with the revenue, or pursuing an appeal against an assessment, being an appeal which involved a question of the value of the shares, were not costs "incurred in making *any valuation" of the shares or* "expenses ... incurred in ascertaining market value".

The conclusion was that the natural interpretation of the class of allowable costs referred to in section 32(2)(b) did not extend to or include the costs which were incurred by the taxpayers in carrying out their negotiations with the revenue or in pursuing their appeal against the assessment.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Brooke North & Goodwin, Leeds.

Threat of injury applies to the offence

Regina v Lee (Robert Paul)

Before Lord Justice Russell, Mr Justice Rougier and Judge Rhys Davies

[Judgment December 15]

Since the words "threat of injury" applied to the offence not the offender, evidence in an arson trial could be given through a live television link or video recording, as the offence of arson involved being reckless as to whether life was endangered.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in dismissing an appeal by Robert Paul Lee against his conviction in October 1994 at Liverpool Crown Court (Judge Crowe, QC and a jury) of arson being reckless as to whether life was endangered, under section 1(2)(b) and (3) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971, and assault occasioning actual bodily harm, under section 47 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861, for which he was sentenced to terms of imprisonment of three years and six months respectively, to run consecutively.

Section 32 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 provides: "(1) A person other than the accused may give evidence through a live television link ... if — ... (b) the witness is under the age of 14 and the offence charged is one to which subsection (2) below applies, but evidence may not be so given without the leave of the court.

"(2) This subsection applies — (a) to an offence which involves an assault on, or injury or a threat of injury to, a person ..."

Mr Simon Csoka, who did not appear below, for the appellant; Mr Roger Hedgeland for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE RUSSELL, giving the judgment of the court, said that the appellant, who did not live with the mother of his children, had collected his children from school one day and then telephoned their mother threatening that she would not get the children back unless she agreed to see him.

The police were called and the appellant returned the children later that evening. It was alleged that he then set fire to the house and assaulted one of the neighbours.

The appellant's elder son, who was aged six at the time of the trial, was interviewed by police. He gave an account, which was recorded on video, of how his father forced his way into the house and set fire to his mother's clothes in her bedroom.

At the trial, the video was admitted in evidence pursuant to section 32A of Criminal Justice Act 1988, as inserted by section 54 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which extended section 32 to cover pre-recorded interviews, and cross-examination was permitted, pursuant to section 32, via a television link.

Objections were not made by counsel then appearing for the defence until after the evidence had been given but it was then submitted that the case was not caught by sections 32 and 32A because there had to be a mental element on the part of the offender to threaten injury to a person before the sections bit. The trial judge rejected that submission.

On appeal, counsel pointed out that the provisions were in place to protect children but that they were not required in this case where the appellant did not intend or threaten injury.

In their Lordships' view, that *approach was misconceived and* was not in accordance with the subsection.

The words "injury or a threat of injury" did not apply to an offender but to an offence; they did not necessarily involve any threat of injury to any particular person and certainly not to the person giving evidence by video or television link.

In their Lordships' judgment an offence involved a threat of injury within the meaning of section 32(2)(a) if the circumstances were such that injury to a person was a real possibility. It was not necessary that a threat of injury to a person should be made directly by the offender. It was the consequences of the offender's activity viewed objectively which had to present the threat.

On the facts, their Lordships were abundantly satisfied that to do as the appellant did plainly created a threat of injury to his son and the offence likewise created that danger. It was the circumstances of the offence which were operative, as opposed to the intention of the offender.

That ground of appeal therefore failed and other grounds having also failed the appeal would be dismissed.

Solicitors: Middleweeks, Manchester: Crown Prosecution Service, North West.

No public figure defence here

Bennett and Others v Guardian Newspapers Ltd

In English law it was no defence to a libel action to plead that it was in the public interest to indict a person's character because he was a public figure.

Sir Michael Davies, sitting as a High Court judge, so held in the Queen's Bench Division on December 5 when (i) granting the *application of the plaintiffs*, Reynold Bennett, Paul Gosscomb, Jerry Mapp, Robert Watton and Bernard Gillan, all police officers, to have that part of the defence of the defendant, Guardian Newspapers Ltd, which pleaded public figure immunity struck out but (ii) refusing the plaintiffs' application as to striking out a defence of qualified privilege.

HIS LORDSHIP said that there were two issues: was a public figure defence tenable under English law and was qualified privilege arguable?

The public figure defence had its origins in the United States of America but the culture of the USA was not the same as in other countries, including the United Kingdon and what was appropriate in the USA was not necessarily appropriate elsewhere.

To admit that defence would involve judicial law making and the part of the defence relating to the public figure issue was to be *struck out without hesitation but* only that aspect of the defence would be struck out at this stage.

Deducting benefit from damages award

Rubenstein and Another v McGloughlin

Before Judge Hicks, QC, Mr J. D. Daly and Mrs M. E. Sunderland

[Judgment October 31]

One half of the invalidity benefit received by an employee following her unfair dismissal should be deducted from an award of compensation against her employers.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held in a reserved judgment allowing in part the cross appeal of Miss J. McGloughlin against the decision of a Liverpool industrial tribunal on August 9, 1994 that the entire £3,751 invalidity benefit she had received should be deducted from her compensation for being unfairly dismissed by Mr M. H. Rubenstein and Mr G. S. Roskin, trading as McGuffies Dispensing Chemists.

An appeal by the employers against the finding of unfair dismissal was dismissed.

Mr C. J. Head, representative, for the employers; Mr John Benson for the employee.

JUDGE HICKS said that the employee had challenged the deduction of invalidity benefit from her compensation for unfair dismissal. She relied on the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal in *Hilton International Hotels (UK) Ltd v Faraji* ([1994] ICR 259) as establishing that invalidity benefit was not deductible from compensation for unfair dismissal.

In *Hilton* Judge Hargrove noted *the provisions of section 74(1) of the* Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 as to compensatory awards and the fact that they did not necessarily produce the same result as the common law of damages.

He added, however, that guidance could be obtained from the general rule derived from *British Transport Commission v Gourley* ([1956] AC 185) that only net loss was recoverable, subject to "exceptional *cases of insurance". He* concluded that the receipt of invalidity benefit could properly be categorised as coming within the insurance group of benefits.

The only reason given for the conclusion that the employee's social security contributions were more properly classified with insurance premiums and that receipt of that benefit could properly be categorised as coming within the insurance group of benefits was that those in employment "paid the sums levied" for the purposes of the national insurance scheme.

It was difficult to obtain any clear guidance from the place of invalidity benefit in the social security system. It was true that it was dealt with in Part II of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 entitled "Contributory Benefits" which contrasted with Part III "Non-contributory Benefits".

However, although the benefits in Part II were payable out of the national insurance fund it was well known that was not a true insurance or pension fund managed on actuarial principles and capable of meeting claims out of past contributions.

Moneys were to be provided by means of contributions by earners, employers and others with additions from money provided by Parliament out of general taxation and there was no evidence as to the proportionate sizes of those sources, although the employers said that it was common knowledge that the employer's contribution was much greater than the employee's.

Moreover, it was very difficult to treat the place of invalidity benefit in Part II as being of any great weight in favour of non-deduction in face of the fact that that part also included unemployment benefit, which on clear authority was deductible from common law damages where statute had not intervened. It was recouped by the *public purse out of compensation* for unfair dismissal, so that neither party benefited, and the same was now true in many cases of damages for personal injuries.

Section 74(1) of the 1978 Act provided that, with irrelevant exceptions, the amount of a compensatory award was to be such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable in all the circumstances having regard to the loss sustained by the complainant in consequence of the dismissal in so far as that loss was attributable to action taken by the employer.

That was a statutory provision constituting its own code for the assessment of compensation, and not to be assumed to be equivalent to the common law of damages. Nevertheless there were many respects in which common law authority was helpful.

What was the loss sustained raised questions similar to those of the quantification of damages, and whether that loss was attributable to the employer's actions and sustained in consequence of the dismissal involved familiar issues of causation.

The autonomy of section 74(1) remained, however, and one important feature of that provision was the incorporation of the requirement that the award should be of such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable.

That was of particular relevance in dealing with a field such as the deductibility of benefits, in which *the case law of damages had had to* adopt an all or nothing approach to a topic in which (to take only the insurance exception to *Gourley*) there could be an infinite gradation from an insurance policy fully funded by the claimant to a pension or benefit to which his contribution had been minimal. There was no reason why an industrial tribunal, in awarding what was just and equitable, should be similarly limited.

Another consequence of the autonomy of section 74(1) and of the jurisdiction to do what was just and equitable was that in looking to analogous situations it was legitimate to take into account not only case law but the regime of common law damages as a whole, including the statutory element, for it was to be assumed that Parliament itself was aiming at just and equitable solutions.

It was instructive that for a number of social security benefits, including invalidity benefit, there were statutory provisions affecting the damages recoverable for personal injury which for smaller awards provided for the deduction of half benefit for five years and for all others imposed a system of recoupment.

It would of course be wrong to apply those provisions directly or to treat the detailed distinctions between smaller and larger claims or between the first five years and later as of any particular assistance, but the broad conclusion to emerge clearly from the provisions as to personal injuries was that throughout Parliament had treated the employer and the employee equally, either by depriving both of the relevant benefits or by dividing the value of those benefits between them by the device of half deduction.

In the case of invalidity benefit, which was clearly not a pure insurance payment fully funded by the employee's contributions, to produce a just and equitable solution required either detailed evidence of the funding position or a broader approach.

The latter was to be preferred and, having regard to the analogy of the statutory system as well as to more general considerations of equity, one half of the invalidity benefit received should be deducted.

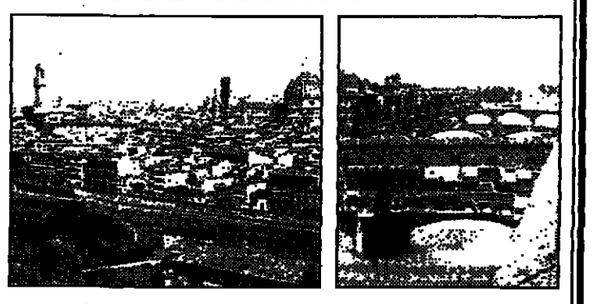
Solicitors: Matthews Darnell, Liverpool.

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STOCK MARKET  MICHAEL CLARK

Dixons picks up double helping of festive cheer

DIXONS GROUP, the electrical retailer, found double cause for celebration as its *shares raced* up 18p to a high for the year of 449p.

Last night, it was confirmed that the group had regained its place as a constituent of the top 100 companies. *It will replace* the **TSB Group**, which was taken over recently by **Lloyds Bank**, up 5p at 847p. **FirstBus**, up 5p at 156p, will replace **Dixons** *place as a constituent* of the FT-SE Mid 250.

The move by Dixons is certain to bolster its share price as it attracts the powerful *index-tracker funds. But it* looks as though the new year sales will provide the group with further cheer. Brokers claim that Dixons has got off to a good start *in the sales* and that this is likely to be reflected in higher profits and improved *margins.*

There was also support for another company being tipped as potential candidate for FT-SE stardom. **Greenalls**, *the fast growing pubs and hotels* group, rose 11p to 580p.

Greenalls has transformed itself in the past six years from a family-controlled brewer into a *leading* player *in the* leisure market, commanding a price tag of £1.6 billion. It pulled *out of* brewing a few years back and recently paid £500 *million plus for* the Boddingtons pubs chain.

Elsewhere, turnover levels plunged *to their lowest levels* of the year as City investors extended their seasonal break.

Nevertheless, in spite of the fact that attendance levels were almost halved, the equity market enjoyed another impressive performance. Prices were *marked* higher initially on the back of a strong performance overnight by the Dow Jones industrial average in New York and revived support for both the pound and government securities.

As a result, early attention focused *on the financial* future, with prices in the cash market steadily squeezed *higher in thin trading*. Even so, there was evidence to suggest that buyers were doing the rounds.

The expiry of the first Tax Exempt Special Savings Scheme next week is likely to produce a dramatic build-up *of liquidity outside the market* and could prove to be the prelude to another surge in share values.

By the close of business last night, the *FT-SE 100* index had climbed 18.1 points to finish at 3,676.4, just 11.6 below its all-time high of 3,688.0 achieved on December 15. But the total number of shares traded had *barely reached* 300 *million* by the close of business.



Brokers say Dixons has got off to a good start in the sales

Whitbread rose 6p to 670p after confirmation that it intends to pay £1.05 billion for *Forte's roadside restaurants* and hotel operations, which includes Happy Eater, Little Chef and Welcome Break *hotels. The* combined businesses are thought to have a book value of £800 million.

Whitbread *says that it* intends to finance the acquisition from existing facilities. This is expected to raise gearing from 12.5 to 75 per cent, or £1.5 billion.

The disposal forms part of Forte's defence strategy against the unwanted attentions of Granada. Brokers were *speculating yesterday* that after the sale of the business, Forte may be positioned to pay a special dividend to shareholders. **Forte** *finished 6p better* at 332p. **Granada**, which is offering £3.4 billion for Forte, ended 8p up at 643p.

BP advanced 10p to 545p after revealing details of a joint venture with Sonatrach, the Algerian state oil and gas company, to produce gas in the Sahara Desert. The deal could *produce* 10 billion cubic metres of gas a year over the next decade and will be marketed jointly in Europe. The rest of the oil sector continued *to benefit from a higher* crude oil price and the bitter weather conditions on both sides of the Atlantic. **Shell** firmed 5p to 860p, **British Borneo** 4p to 343p, **Enterprise** *6p to 404p*, **Lasmo** 2p to 182p and **Seafield Resources** 3p to 80p.

London Electricity caused some brokers to reach for the smelling salts after its price opened 100p lower. But it was not a profits warning, nor *regulatory problems, that had* caused the fall. The shares had merely opened ex the special dividend. The price eventually settled at 588p, down 11p.

But there was support for **Midland Electricity**, up 16p at 769p, after reports that it could find itself on the receiving end of a £1.5 billion bid from Tractebel, the Belgium utility. A bid from PowerGen for Midland has been referred to the *Monopolies Commission*. **National Grid** marked time at 199p after PSB Holding announced it had confirmed the sale of First Hydro for £652 *million* to Mission Energy, the US group.

Another company benefiting from the start *of the sales* is Goldsmiths, the jeweller. Its shares firmed 2p to 227p after reporting that sales during the past month were 16 per cent ahead.

News that industrial problems at AE Staley, its American subsidiary, had been settled lifted **Tate & Lyle** 6p to 468p. *Staley said its latest* proposals had been accepted by 56 per cent of the workforce. The dispute began in 1992 after the introduction of sub-contracting and 12-hour shifts.

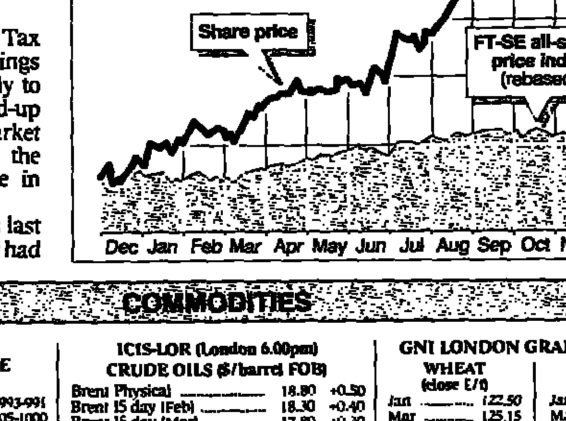
□ **GILT-EDGED**: London *took its lead from firmer* performances by US treasury bonds and German bunds. Prices were squeezed higher in thin trading throughout the session although brokers said there was evidence of overseas support.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt climbed £13/16 to end the session at £110 23/32, but the number of contracts completed was a disappointing 13,000.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 *jumped* £1 1/32 *to* £103 1/16, while at the shorter end. Treasury 8 per cent 2000 advanced £11/32 *to* £104 31/32.

□ **NEW YORK**: Wall Street shares remained in positive territory in early trading as the stock market continued its *traditional year-end* rally. At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 5.42 *points* at 5,115.67.

The Halifax Building Society is not alone in taking the view that there are signs of a recovery *in the depressed housing* market for 1996. John Clay, a director of Hambro Countrywide, the estate agent, has snapped up a further 50,000 shares at 41p. *This doubles his holding.* HCW closed all square at 40p.



MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5115.67 (+5.42)
S&P Composite	615.06 (+0.76)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	20011.76 (+107.04)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9985.23 (+53.03)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	485.02 (+3.50)
Sydney:	
AO	2201.1 (-5.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2280.43 (same)
Singapore:	
Straits	2271.35 (-5.51)
Brussels:	
General	8334.26 (+15.25)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1877.03 (+10.36)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	714.20 (+4.30)
London:	
FT 30	2674.1 (+13.6)
FT 100	3676.4 (+18.1)
FT-SE Mid 250	3999.7 (+14.3)
FT-SE-A 350	1823.5 (+8.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1490.10 (+10.91)
FT A All-Share	1795.71 (+8.02)
FT Non Financials	1899.44 (+10.36)
FT Fixed Interest	114.32 (+0.09)
FT Govt Secs	95.75 (+0.33)
Bargains	16577
SEAQ Volume	316.8m
USM (Datastrm)	187.96 (+0.09)
US$	1.5602 (+0.0187)
German Mark	2.2330 (+0.0128)
Exchange Index	83.6 (+0.6)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.1832
£:SDR	n/a
RPI	149.8 Nov (3.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	149.8 Nov (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Cash Converters Intl	24	...
Century Inns	117	...
Com de Part Fin	510	...
Cornworth (150)	152	+ 1
Cox Insurance	111	+ 1
Crown Products	53	...
Dmatek	80	- 1
East Surrey NV	448	...
Finsb Tech Tst (100)	103	+ 1
Gardner (L)	132	...
Gearhouse Gp (200)	199	...
Jasmin	83	...
Manx & O'seas	25	...
National Grid (204)	199½	+ ½
Northern Petroleum	75	...
Nthn Petlm	8	...
Pet City	380	...
Polymasc Pharms	125	...
Revelation Plcc	100	...
Rushmere Wynne	3½	...
Trocadero	46	...
Unicorn Intl (133)	134	...
Victrex	243½	- ½
Viewinn	130	...
Wilmington	66	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Dnloe Hse n/p (1r10p)	1½	...
Melrose n/p (34)	6	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Parkland	196p (+13p)
JJB Sports	571p (+33p)
Filtronic Com	475p (+25p)
Dixons Group	449p (+18p)
Kelsey Ind	588p (+18p)
Stagecoach	340p (+10p)
Jardine Math	447p (+10p)
TI	460p (+10p)

FALLS:

Shield Diag	158p (-15p)
Woodside	324p (-15p)
LBMS	285p (-12p)
Reuters	585p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 27

TEMPUS

Insurers at premium prices

IF life insurance companies were rated solely on their financial performance, the sector would *have had a miserable* year. New business figures were appalling in 1995, in part a legacy of the pensions mis-selling scandal, which alerted *the public to the* relative incompetence of salespeople joining the financial services industry in the late 1980s. However, life *insurance shares sparkled over* the past year and only the most optimistic would attribute that to hopes of a recovery in new business.

Rumours of takeovers caused the sector to outperform dramatically, with Legal & General shares gaining 60 per cent in the hope that a foreign insurer such as Germany's Allianz might launch a bid. At current price levels, *Legal & General looks secure but the life* industry as a whole looks set for upheaval. Most of the activity will take place among mutual companies. The *industry suffers* from *huge overcapacity*; overmanning in the industry and the lack of new premiums means that many firms are eating *into their* reserves to pay *salaries* and rents in the City of London. Mergers offer the opportunity to cut costs and the Prudential *has already signalled* that it *wants to* offer a safe haven for the policyholders of undercapitalised mutuals. Meanwhile, the expectation *is growing* that *larger mutuals*, such as Scottish Amicable and Norwich Union, may seize the opportunity of a bull market to float and *use* shares to expand by *acquisition* or to raise capital.

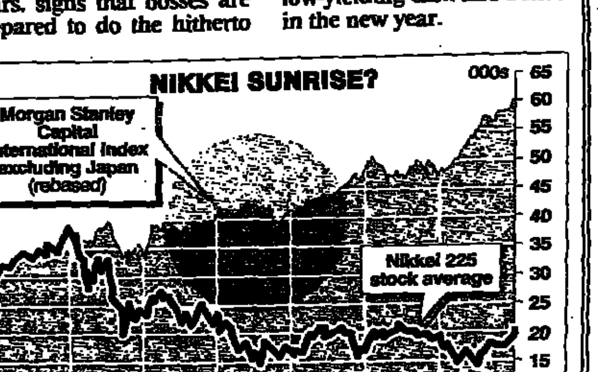
Without coercion from a Government keen to encourage private pension *provision*, new business is unlikely to bounce back quickly and life companies will shed blood in the coming year.

Japan

HOPES of economic recovery *in Japan sent the Nikkei* 225 stock average to its highest level for 14 months. At 20,011, the index has gained more than a third in value *since its low point in* July in the expectation that shares may finally be breaking out of a bear market that has lasted for six years.

Recent economic indicators suggest Japan's negligible growth trend may be *about to move up* a *tick*. Industrial production rose 1.3 per cent in November, well ahead of expectations but signs that the wheels are *turning faster coincide with* worsening unemployment which reached a new high of 3.4 per cent last month. The dole queue is a new experience *for the Japanese*: worsening unemployment signals a shift in attitudes in the boardroom where a preference for consensus management has previously *loaded the* burden of recession on shareholders rather than staff.

For investors who have seen corporate profits in *Japan slump* by almost 80 per cent over the past five years, signs that bosses are prepared to do *the* hitherto *unthinkable* is welcome. Japanese institutions have remained on *the sidelines* during The Nikkei's recent surge which was led by *overseas investors*. However, the fall in the yen and low interest rates could persuade the domestic investors to move their money out of *low-yielding cash and* bonds in the new year.



BP

A WELCOME aspect of BP's Algerian deal is *that it is* about development, not exploration. The licence area forming part of the production-sharing contract with Sonatrach, the Algerian state oil company, contains known gas reserves and only a relatively small area involves new exploration. Most of the $100 million that BP is investing in *the early stages of the work* will be appraisal of existing gasfields using three-dimensional seismic surveys.

Major oil companies are *shying away from wildcat* exploration which ever more frequently involves investment *in remote*, politically unstable areas or in deep water. Operating in such regions is expensive and the cost of drilling wells that may turn out dry outweighs the potential reward of striking oil when most companies *now budget their exploration* at oil prices of $12-$16 per barrel.

The risks for BP's involvement in Algeria are political — the country has been *embroiled in civil war for* four years — rather than commercial, but the company has negotiated a deal that gives it 30 per cent of the profits from the sale of gas, almost double the going rate from typical production sharing *contracts*. An added bonus is BP's marketing joint venture with Sonatrach which will give it an entrée to the continental gas market as pressure increases to free up the European gas market.

Goldsmiths

IT WAS Gerald Ratner who memorably informed the public that in the jewellry business all that glitters is not gold. His business has since gone sour, as if to prove the point, and even now, renamed Signet, the company is still struggling.

Rival Goldsmiths also had a rough ride through the recession but under chief executive Jurek Piasecki, *it has* become a very different outfit. In the past year, Goldsmiths *has grown* from half of Signet's market worth to almost overtaking it in size. Not surprisingly, Goldsmiths is now keen to get its hands on some of Signet's tarnished treasure trove of outlets.

Although Goldsmiths moves from strength to strength, as yesterday's sparkling Christmas trade figures demonstrate, Signet *is refusing to cooperate*. Mr Piasecki *is seeking* independent retailers willing to sell up, *but growth by this route* will be slow. Goldsmiths hopes lie in a less than merry Christmas for Signet and pressure from the company's already unhappy US institutional shareholders forcing a sale. Without this opportunity for further rapid expansion the shares, standing at 16 times 1995 earnings, are already fully valued.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	900-820	Mar	993-991
Mar	894-893	May	1005-1000
May	915-914	Jul	unq
Jul	935-933	Sep	—
Sep	953-952		
Dec	973-971	Volume: 4283	

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jan	2069-2065	Sep	1597-1595
Mar	1785-1780	Nov	1585-1584
May	1680-1675	Jan	1575-1550
Jul	1611-1610	Volume: 3210	

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Oct	304.5-04.0
Spot: 369.0		Dec	300.0-99.5
Mar	349.4-49.2	Mar	300.0-97.5
May	338.5-37.7	May	301.0-96.5
Aug	329.5-28.7	Volume: 449	

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on December 21

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB.	111.11	122.11	123.93
(+/-)	-5.15	+6.75	+2.66
Eng/Wales:	111.16	123.43	122.60
(+/-)	-5.28	+7.46	+2.28
(%)	-71.0	-53.0	-23.0
Scotland:	107.64	116.67	127.72
(+/-)	+7.33	+4.57	+2.24
(%)	-65.0	-39.0	+21.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.80	+0.50
Brent 15 day (Feb)	18.30	+0.40
Brent 15 day (May)	17.80	+0.30
W Texas Intermediate (Feb)	19.45	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	19.00	+0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	B:	O:
Premium Gas .15	171 (+1)	173 (+1)
Gasoil EEC	185 (+7)	187 (+6)
Non EEC 1H Jan	184 (+8)	185 (+7)
Non EEC 1H Feb	179 (+5)	181 (+5)
3.5 Fuel Oil	106 (+3)	108 (+3)
Naphtha	163 (+4)	164 (+3)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jan	180.00-80.25	Apr	162.50 SLR
Feb	175.25-75.50	May	159.25-59.75
Mar	168.50-69.00		Vol: 26579

BRENT (6.00pm)

Feb	18.28-18.30	May	17.08 BID
Mar	17.76-17.80	Jul	16.70 SLR
Apr	17.41 SLR		Vol: 23317

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jan	122.50	Jan	114.00
Mar	125.15	Mar	116.50
May	127.15	May	118.40
Jul	129.10	Sep	109.25
Sep	113.00	Nov	111.00
Volume: 284		Volume: 42	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Mar	unq	270.0
Apr	240.0	241.3
May	unq	275.5
		Volume: 27

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Jan 106.75-107.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jan 96	1595	1590	1598
Feb 96	—	—	1570
Mar 96	—	—	1547
Apr 96	—	—	1539
Vol: 15 lots			Open Interest: 3666

Index 1618 -5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2850.0-2852.0	2689.0-2690.0	1519500
Lead ($/tonne)	719.00-720.00	714.00-715.00	146625
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1009.0-1009.5	1033.0-1034.0	393375
Tin ($/tonne)	6240.0-6250.0	6270.0-6280.0	23160
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1674.0-1675.0	1701.0-1702.0	683075
Nickel ($/tonne)	8060.0-8070.0	8195.0-8200.0	71400

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Alld Dom.	500	19	37	43	3	12	20
(*515)	550	0	12	19	34	39	48
Argyll	330	11	24	29	4	12	19
(*335)	360	1	10	15	25	29	36
ASDA	110	4	9	12	3	6	9
(*110)	120	1	5	8	10	13	15
Boots	550	33	49	57	1	8	17
(*590)	600	4	20	28	22	31	41
Br Airways	460	12	28	36	6	14	22
(*465)	500	1	11	18	35	38	45
BP	500	47	54	60	0	4	9
(*545)	550	7	30	29	11	21	27
Br Steel	160	7	13	16	2	6	11
(*163)	180	0	4	7	16	18	24
C & W	460	13	32	41	10	20	28
(*460)	500	2	15	25	40	44	50
CU	600	35	50	57	3	19	24
(*630)	650	6	22	32	24	46	51
ICI	700	51	63	71	1	14	20
(*748)	750	14	31	42	13	37	43
Kingfishr	500	46	59	63	0	9	17
(*549)	550	9	27	34	14	30	38
Land Sec	600	12	29	36	6	14	26
(*606)	650	0	8	14	43	46	58
M & S	420	24	36	41	1	6	12
(*442)	460	3	14	19	19	24	31
Nat West	650	17	31	45	10	34	41
(*654)	700	2	13	24	46	68	73
Sainsbury	360	25	35	39	0	5	11
(*383)	390	5	16	22	10	17	24
Shell	850	18	35	44	6	23	29
(*859)	900	1	12	22	40	54	59
Smkl Bch	700	16	35	50	11	25	34
(*701)	750	2	15	28	48	56	63
Storehse	330	10	21	28	6	12	17
(*332)	360	1	8	14	27	31	34
Trafalgar	20	5	7	9	0	2	3
(*24)	25	3	5	7	2	4	6
Unilever	1300	29	56	71	8	31	40
(*1315)	1350	6	29	46	35	58	67
Zeneca	1200	46	80	104	11	44	57
(*1231)	1250	18	53	77	32	70	81

		Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
Grnd Met.	460	13	26	37	18	24	31
(*463)	500	3	12	21	49	51	56
Ladbroke	140	16	20	25	5	10	12
(*150)	160	7	11	16	15	22	23
Utd Bisc	240	23	27	30	3	9	11
(*257)	260	11	16	20	11	18	21

		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
BAA	460	24	38	45	1	7	13
(*481)	500	3	16	23	20	26	31
Thames W	550	15	35	42	9	19	33
(*554)	600	1	14	22	45	49	65

		Calls Feb	May	Aug	Puts Feb	May	Aug
BAT Ind	550	40	47	55	7	19	28
(*576)	600	13	22	31	30	46	54
BTR	300	25	28	32	1	7	9
(*320)	330	6	11	17	13	22	24
Br Aero	750	59	73	92	9	22	31
(*791)	800	29	46	65	29	44	54
Br Telcm	330	23	22	39	4	6	13
(*346)	360	7	15	22	18	20	28
Cadbury	500	43	49	59	6	18	23
(*531)	550	17	24	34	28	43	48
Guinness	460	25	33	39	6	17	21
(*473)	500	7	14	20	28	40	43
GEC	330	25	34	39	2	6	10
(*351)	360	8	15	22	14	18	24
Hanson	191	1	—	—	6	—	—
(*192)	211	0	—	—	21	—	—
LASMO	180	9	14	20	6	9	13
(*181)	200	2	6	11	19	22	24
Lucas	160	19	23	26	1	3	5
(*176)	180	6	11	15	8	12	13
Pilkngtn	191	12	18	22	4	6	9
(*197)	210	4	9	13	15	16	21
Prudential	390	35	40	49	5	13	19
(*417)	420	17	22	33	15	27	33
Redland	360	32	40	43	3	12	15
(*384)	390	13	22	27	14	26	29
R-Royce	180	11	14	19	5	9	11
(*184)	200	3	6	10	17	21	23
Tesco	280	23	28	31	3	8	10
(*297)	300	10	15	20	10	17	19
Vodafone	220	13	20	25	9	12	14
(*222)	240	5	11	16	20	23	25
Williams	300	30	35	37	1	5	7
(*326)	330	9	15	18	9	18	30

FT-SE INDEX (*3676)

	3550	3600	3650	3700	3750	3800
Calls						
Jan	139	94	55	27	11	3
Feb	157	118	84	55	33	18
Mar	175	136	106	78	55	37
Apr	183	151	130	95	71	54
Jun	—	184	—	126	—	81
Puts						
Jan	6	12	25	49	83	126
Feb	17	28	44	66	96	135
Mar	34	45	64	87	114	149
Apr	53	71	89	113	140	173
Jun	—	96	—	136	—	191

		Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat.	600	54	62	71	15	23	31
(*638)	650	25	36	45	39	47	55
Amstrad	200	27	32	37	4	7	8
(*219)	220	16	21	26	12	15	17
Barclays	700	60	67	76	14	25	30
(*742)	750	28	39	49	37	47	53
Blue Circ	330	24	29	35	9	18	22
(*340)	360	10	14	21	26	35	39
Br Gas	240	23	27	30	6	11	12
(*255)	260	12	16	20	14	21	22
Dixons	420	42	53	60	10	14	19
(*449)	460	22	30	38	27	32	37
Forte	330	17	20	28	9	16	16
(*332)	360	6	7	15	29	33	34
Tarmac	100	11	14	16	3	6	9
(*106)	110	5	9	11	8	11	14
Hillsdwn	160	12	14	16	4	9	11
(*166)	180	4	6	7	16	22	24
Lonrho	160	21	25	27	1	3	6
(*179)	180	8	13	15	8	11	14
Sears	100	8	10	12	2	4	5
(*105)	110	3	5	7	7	9	10
Thrn Eml	1500	72	108	128	41	53	70
(*1520)	1600	29	62	80	102	110	124
Tomkins	260	22	29	33	5	8	12
(*276)	280	10	18	22	14	17	21
Lloyds TSB	390	15	21	—	22	23	—
(*399)	420	1	8	—	40	43	—

		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Glaxo Well	900	21	44	60	13	38	47
(*904)	950	4	23	38	47	69	76
HSBC	950	57	82	96	4	31	42
(*998)	1000	23	53	68	20	55	65
Reuter	550	38	54	65	1	14	20
(*585)	600	7	25	37	20	37	43

		Calls Jan	Apr	Jul	Puts Jan	Apr	Jul
Royal Ins.	360	26	37	41	2	15	20
(*383)	390	8	21	30	12	30	36

		Calls Mar	Jun		Puts Mar	Jun	
Fisons	260	5	5	—	0	0	—
(*265)	280	0	0	—	15	18	—

		Calls Feb	May		Puts Feb	May	
Eastern Gp	950	29	35	—	0	0	—
(*972)	1000	0	3	—	34	34	—

		Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Natl Pwr	420	40	52	55	4	13	16
(*449)	460	15	29	33	19	31	35
Scot Pwr	360	16	24	29	11	15	30
(*366)	390	5	11	16	32	34	38

December 27, 1995 Tot: 9296 Call: 4967 Put: 4339 FT-SE Call: 1387 Put: 1287

*Underlying security price.

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6½ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6½ Low 6¼ Week fixed: 6⅜

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¹¹⁄₃₂ : 3 mth 6¼ . Sell: 2 mth 6⅜ : 3 mth 6¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis)	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6	
Sterling Money Rates	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6
Interbank	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6

Overnight: open 6½, close 6½.

Local Authority Deps	6	n/a	6	6	6
Sterling CDs	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6
Dollar CDs	5.68	n/a	5.60	5.45	5.40
Building Society CDs	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6	6-6

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	6-5	5-5	5-5	5-5	5-4
Deutschemark	4-4	4-3	3-3	3-3	4-3
French Franc	5-4	5-5	5-5	5-5	5-4
Swiss Franc	2-2	2-2	2-1	1-1	2-1
Yen					n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (NM Rothschild)

Bullion: Open $387.60-387.90 Close: $387.10-387.40 High: $387.70-388.00 Low: $386.80-387.10 AM: $387.35 PM: $387.05

Krugerrand: $385.50-387.50 (£247.50-248.50)

Platinum: $405.75 (£260.75) Silver: $5.16 (£3.305) Palladium: $130.75 (£84.05)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Dec 27	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4888-2.5026	2.4969-2.5001	pr	1-1pr
Brussels	45.65-45.95	45.83-45.93	13-8pr	33-25pr
Copenhagen	8.6040-8.6670	8.6270-8.6490	1-pr	3-3pr
Dublin	0.9667-0.9696	0.9669-0.9694	9-6pr	25-20pr
Frankfurt	2.2230-2.2326	2.2296-2.2326	pr	1-1pr
Lisbon	232.50-233.80	233.00-233.63	30-57ds	113-157ds
Madrid	188.87-189.56	189.08-189.37	42-52ds	124-141ds
Milan	2462.50-2474.20	2462.60-2466.60	8-10ds	23-25ds
Montreal	2.1122-2.1228	2.1198-2.1228	0.17-0.09pr	0.32-0.21pr
New York	1.5528-1.5606	1.5596-1.5606	0.11-0.09pr	0.33-0.30pr
Oslo	9.8100-9.8710	9.8560-9.8710	pr	3-2pr
Paris	7.6200-7.6790	7.6660-7.6790	1-pr	2-2pr
Stockholm	10.2800-10.3760	10.3500-10.3730	ds	ds
Tokyo	159.30-160.43	160.17-160.43	1-pr	2-2pr
Vienna	15.6390-15.7340	15.6950-15.7220	pr	1-pr
Zurich	1.7919-1.8007	1.7963-1.7991	pr	2-1pr

Source: Extel

Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

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DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3360-1.3368
Austria	10.07-10.08
Belgium (Com)	29.40-29.44
Canada	1.3583-1.3590
Denmark	5.5440-5.5470
France	4.9030-4.9040
Germany	1.4315-1.4325
Hong Kong	7.7325-7.7335
Ireland	1.6110-1.6130
Italy	1584.40-1585.90
Japan	102.60-102.70
Malaysia	2.5410-2.5420
Netherlands	1.6032-1.6037
Norway	6.3168-6.3243
Portugal	149.55-149.65
Singapore	1.4147-1.4157
Spain	121.31-121.36
Sweden	6.6460-6.6535
Switzerland	1.1531-1.1538

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5590-1.5616
Australia dollar	2.0839-2.0866
Bahrain dinar	0.5800-0.5920
Brazil real*	1.5106-1.5148
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7015-0.7115
Finland markka	6.6750-6.7910
Greece drachma	364.75-371.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.0612-12.0704
India rupee	54.03-54.99
Indonesia rupiah	3526.0-3594.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.46-0.47
Malaysia ringgit	3.9614-3.9655
New Zealand dollar	2.3809-2.3842
Pakistan rupee	53.33 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.7650-5.8910
Singapore dollar	2.2044-2.2074
S Africa rand (com)	5.6370-5.7390
U A E dirham	5.6475-5.7715

Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	199	Legal & Gn	243
ASDA Gp	3,900	Lloyds Bk	4,600
Abbey Ntl	840	Marks Spr	2,100
Allied Dom	1,700	NatWst Bk	1,400
Argos	187	Nat Grid	10,000
Argyll Gp	957	Nat Power	479
AB Foods	434	NW Water	175
BAA	960	P & O	680
BAT Inds	3,500	Pearson	309
BOC	340	Pilkington	539
BP	3,200	PowerGen	399
BSkyB	518	Prudential	922
BTR	2,600	REXAM	1,200
BT	6,500	RMC	238
Bk of Scot	413	RTZ	639
Barclays	1,000	Rank Org	2,200
Bass	996	Reckitt Col	125
Blue Circle	693	Redland	492
Boots	492	Reed Intl	550
BAe	1,400	Rentokil	1,100
BA	1,900	Reuters	1,700
Brit Gas	2,800	Rolls Royce	4,200
Brit Steel	2,300	Royal Ins	536
Burmah Cstl	204	Ryl Bk Scot	405
Burton	4,700	Sainsbury	846
Cable Wire	2,700	Schroders	19
Cadbury	783	Scot & New	587
Carlton Cms	1,000	Scot Power	1,400
Cm Union	190	Svrn Trent	783
Cookson	1,200	Shell Trans	1,400
Courtaulds	691	Siebe	365
Enterpr Oil	508	SmKl Bch	3,300
For & Col IT	661	Smith Nph	1,300
Forte	6,300	Smiths Inds	73
GKN	505	Sthern Elec	397
GRE	796	Std Chartd	671
GUS	559	Sun Allnce	281
Gen Acc	79	TI Gp	300
Gen Elec	7,400	TSB	9,100
Glaxo Well	2,800	Tate & Lyle	386
Granada	1,600	Tesco	2,600
Grand Met	3,000	Thames W	412
Guinness	1,400	Thm EMI	2,000
HSBC	1,900	Tomkins	1,400
Hanson	4,000	Unilever	546
ICI	359	Vodafone	1,400
Kingfisher	3,100	Whitbread	1,100
LASMO	1,300	Wilms Hld	328
Ladbroke	1,800	Wolseley	333
Land Secs	508	Zeneca	1,600

WALL STREET

	Dec 27 midday	Dec 26 close
AMP Inc	38	38
AMR Corp	73	73
AT & T	64	64
Abbott Labs	40	40
Advanced Micro	17	17
Aetna Life	70	71
Ahmanson (HF)	26	26
Air Prod & Chem	52	52
AirTouch Comm	27	27
Alberto-Culver B	35	35
Albertson's	33	32
Alcan Alumnm	30	30
Alco Standard	45	45
Allied Signal	48	48
Alum Co of Am	51	51
Amax Gold Inc	7	7
Amerada Hess	52	52
Amer Brands	44	44
Amer El Power	40	39
Amer Express	41	41
Amer Genl Corp	34	34
Amer Home Pr	95	95
Amer Intl	93	93
Amer Stores	26	26
Amer Standard	27	28
Ameritech	58	58
Amoco	70	70
Anheuser-Busch	66	67
Apple Computer	32	32
Archer Daniels	18	17
Armco	5	5
Armstrng Wrld	61	62
Asarco	30	30
Ashland Oil	35	36
Atl Richfield	111	112
Auto Data Pro	72	73
Avery Dennison	49	49
Avon Products	75	75
Baker Hughes	24	24
Baltim Gas & El	28	28
Banc One	37	37
BankAmerica	65	64
Bank of NY	48	48
Bankers Tr NY	66	66
Barnett Banks	59	59
Bausch & Lomb	39	39
Baxter Intl	41	41
Becton Dicknsn	73	74
Bell Atlantic	67	67
Bell Industries	22	22
BellSouth	43	42
Black & Decker	33	34
Block (H&R)	40	39
Boeing	77	77
Boise Cascade	34	34
Bristol Myrs Sq	85	86
Browning Ferris	29	29
Brunswick	22	22
Burlington Nthn	77	77
CNA Financial	112	112
CPC Intl	68	68
CSX	44	43
Campbell Soup	59	59
Can Pacific	17	18
Cpti Cities ABC	123	123
Carolina Pwr	34	34
Caterpillar	59	59
Central & SW	27	27
Champion Intl	42	43
Chase Manhat	60	60
Chemical Bk	59	58
Chevron Corp	52	52
Chrysler	55	55
Chubb Corp	98	97
Cigna Corp	106	105
Citicorp	67	66
Clorox	71	71
Coastal Corp	37	37
Coca Cola	75	74
Colgate-Palmolive	70	70
Columbia Gas	43	43
ColumbiaHCA	51	51
Compaq Comp	49	49
Comp Ass Int	58	59
Conagra	41	41
Conrail	69	69
Cons Edison	31	31
Cons Nat Gas	45	45
Cooper Inds	36	36
Corestates	37	37
Corning Inc	30	30
Crown Cork	41	41
Dana Corp	29	29
Dayton Hudson	75	75
Deere	35	35
Delta Air Lines	73	73
Deluxe Corp	29	28
Detroit Edison	34	34
Digital Equip	63	63
Dillard Dept St	28	28
Disney (Walt)	60	60
Dominion Res	41	41
Donelley (RR)	38	38
Dover Corp	37	36
Dow Chemical	69	70
Dow Jones	39	39
Dresser	24	24
Duke Power	47	47
Dun & Brdstreet	63	63
Du Pont	69	69

	Dec 27 midday	Dec 26 close
Eastman Kodak	67	67
Exxon Corp	53	53
Emerson Elec	78	78
Engelhard Corp	21	22
Enron Corp	37	37
Energy	28	28
Ethyl Corp	12	12
Exxon	81	81
FMC Corp	67	67
FPL Group	46	46
Federal Express	70	70
Fed Nat Mtge	124	119
First Interstate	136	136
First Union Rlty	7	7
Fleet Fnl Grp	42	42
Fluor Corp	64	65
Ford Motor	29	29
GTE Corp	44	43
Gannett	60	60
Gap Inc Del	43	41
Gen Dynamics	59	59
Gen Electric	71	72
Gen Mills	57	56
Gen Motors	51	51
Gen Reinsurance	153	155
Gen Signal	32	32
Genuine Parts	40	41
Georgia Pac	69	69
Gillette	51	52
Glaxo Wellc ADR	28	27
Goodrich (BF)	68	68
Goodyear Tire	44	45
Grace (W&R)	58	59
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23	23
Great Wstn Fin	25	25
Halliburton	50	50
Harcourt General	41	40
Heinz (HJ)	32	32
Hercules	57	57
Hershey Foods	65	66
Hewlett Packard	85	65
Hilton Hotels	61	62
Home Depot	47	47
Homestake Mng	15	15
Honeywell	47	48
Household Intl	58	59
Houston Inds	24	24
Humana	26	26
ITT Corp	51	51
Illinois Tool	58	58
Illinova	29	29
INCO	33	33
Ingersoll Rand	36	36
Inland Steel	25	25
Intel Corp	59	59
IBM	91	91
Intl Flav & Fr	48	48
Intl Paper	37	36
James River Va	23	23
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	86	86
Kellogg	77	76
Kerr-McGee	61	61
Kimberly-Clark	80	80
Kmart	6	6
Knight-Ridder	63	62
Lilly (Eli)	55	56
Limited Inc	16	16
Lincoln Nat	52	53
Litton	43	43
Liz Claiborne	26	26
Lockheed Martin	77	77
Louisiana Pac	24	24
MCI Comm	26	26
Marriott Int	37	38
Marsh & McLnn	88	89
Masco Corp	29	29
May Dept St	41	41
Maytag Corp	20	20
McDonalds	45	44
McDonnell D	89	89
McGraw Hill	86	86
Mead Corp	52	52
Medtronic	55	55
Mellon Bk	52	52
Melville Corp	30	30
Merck Inc	65	66
Merrill Lynch	51	51
Microsoft	89	90
Minnesota Mine	64	63
Mobil Corp	113	112
Monsanto	122	122
Morgan (JP)	80	79
Motorola Inc	57	57
Natl Semi	23	23
Natl Service Ind	31	30
Navistar Int	10	10
NY Times A	29	29
Newmont Mng	43	43
Niag Mohawk	9	9
Nike B	66	66
NL Industries	12	12
Noram Energy	9	8
Nordstrom	41	41
Norfolk Sthrn	77	76
Nthn State Pwr	49	49
Norwest Corp	33	33
Nynex Corp	51	51
Occidental Pet	21	21
Ohio Edison	23	23
Oracle	44	44

	Dec 27 midday	Dec 26 close
Oryx Energy Co	13	13
Owens Corning	44	44
PPG Industries	44	44
PNC Bank	31	30
PP&L Res	25	25
Paccar Inc	45	45
Pacificorp	21	21
Pac Enterprises	28	28
Pac Gas & Elect	28	27
Pac Telesis	33	34
Pall Corp	26	26
Panhandle East	27	27
Parker Hannifin	34	34
Peco Energy	29	30
Penney (JC)	46	44
Pennzoil	42	42
Pepsico	55	55
Pfizer	63	63
Pharm & Upjhn	39	39
Phelps Dodge	60	61
Philip Morris	90	89
Phillips Pet	33	33
Pitney Bowes	46	45
Polaroid	48	48
PriceCostco	14	15
Procter & Gmbl	83	83
Providian	40	40
Pub Serv E & G	30	30
Quaker Oats	34	34
Ralston Purina	61	62
Raychem Corp	56	56
Raytheon	45	45
Reebok Intl	28	27
Reynolds Metals	52	54
Roadway Srvcs	49	49
Rockwell Intl	52	52
Rohm & Haas	63	62
Royal Dutch	140	140
Rubbermaid	25	25
SBC Comms	57	57
Safeco Corp	34	34
St Paul's Cos	56	56
Salomon Inc	34	34
Sara Lee Corp	31	31
Seacorp	17	17
Schering Plough	55	55
Schlumberger	69	68
Seagram	34	34
Sears Roebuck	39	38
Shell Trans	81	81
Sherwin Wlms	41	40
Skyline Corp	20	21
Snap-On-Tools	45	45
Southern Co	24	24
Sprint Corp	39	39
Stanley Works	51	50
Sun Company	26	26
Sun Microsys	47	47
Suntrust	68	68
Supervalu	31	31
Sysco Corp	32	32
TRW Inc	76	76
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	10	10
Tandy Corp	41	40
Teledyne	24	24
Temple Inland	42	42
Tenneco	48	48
Texaco	77	78
Texas Inst	52	53
Texas Utilities	40	40
Textron	71	72
Time Warner	37	38
Times-Mirror A	34	34
Timken	38	38
Torchmark	45	44
Toys R Us	22	22
Transamerica	72	73
Travelers	61	60
Tribune	60	60
Tyco Labs	35	34
UST Inc	34	34
UAL	176	176
US Inds	17	17
USX Marathon	19	19
Unicom	32	33
Unilever NV	140	140
Union Camp	47	47
Union Carbide	38	38
Union Pacific	65	65
Unisys Corp	5	5
USAIR Group	13	13
USF&G Corp	17	17
US Life	29	29
United Tech	95	94
Unocal Corp	29	29
VF Corp	52	52
WMX Tech	28	29
Wal-Mart Stores	23	22
Warner-Lambert	94	94
Wells Fargo	214	214
Westinghouse El	16	16
Weyerhaeuser	42	42
Whirlpool	57	53
Whitman	22	22
Winn Dixie	37	37
Woolworth	13	13
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	52	52
Xerox	138	138
Yellow Corp	12	12

هكذا من الاصل



JANET BUSH 25

No escape as nations succumb to poverty trap



ARTS 30, 31

Geoff Brown on new releases and top films of 1995



SPORT 34-40

Stewart's dismissal puts England on back foot in Test

THE KGB'S LITERARY ARCHIVE
Books 32, 33

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook — THURSDAY DECEMBER 28 1995

Supermarkets may plug into power sales

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

CONSUMERS could buy their gas and electricity at supermarket checkouts in little more than two years' time, when competition to supply households will be allowed nationally.

Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, said many retail groups were examining the feasibility of entering the market after the removal of local monopolies enjoyed by regional supply companies. The gas and electricity markets must be fully deregulated by April 1998.

This will open up a market of 20 million households worth £8 billion a year. With grocery returns under pressure from a price war, supermarket bosses hope that selling utility services could provide a new source of profits. "All of these chains realise that they have strengths and the resources which could be of use in the electricity market," Professor Littlechild said. "I think all of the major chains are aware that there will be a possibility there which doesn't exist at the moment." Many have already made their interest plain to Offer, the electricity regulatory body, he said.

Leading retailers are well aware of the structural changes taking place in power markets, and the opportunities looming, because they are among the chief beneficiaries of the partial opening to competition that has already taken place.

Store chains that used to receive hundreds of bills from separate state-owned electricity boards are now able to buy all their power from a single private sector supplier, selected through a competitive bidding process that has yielded savings of 30 per cent or more.

No new wires or pipes would be needed. Retailers would simply use their purchasing power to increase the amount of energy they buy in bulk at a discount. Energy not used in their own premises could be sold on to consumers, with the retailer paying a fee for carriage to the relevant power distribution or gas pipeline company. Changing supplier would require little more effort by the consumer than signing the contract.

According to the regulator, many chain stores are well placed to sell electricity in the competitive consumer markets now being created. They have the confidence of their customers that they provide good value for money. They are expert at driving a hard bargain with suppliers and passing the benefit on to consumers, trading large volumes on slim profit margins.

And many now have their own credit cards, providing them with knowledge of customers' credit worthiness, and with the staff and systems to handle billing and payments. Some oil and gas companies setting up to compete with British Gas for household customers when competitive trials begin in April 1996 also see store groups as probable competitors. The dangers of the looming free-for-all, in which commodity energy products are sold on price, as well as service, have not been lost on British Gas.

With its own franchise under threat, and a growing expectation that customers will favour a single supplier, the company has already applied for a licence to trade in electricity with a view to offering power to household customers as well as gas.

Professor Littlechild said: "I think at some stage we will see some of the supermarkets and some of the chain stores saying 'Look, we offer the facilities for people to buy food, groceries and also clothing in our stores. Why not offer the possibility of buying gas, electricity and water?' They will be looking for ways to do that'."

Some might choose to work with an existing electricity supplier, he said. These could include an electricity generator, or a regional power company anxious to extend beyond the boundaries of its existing franchise, he said.

The store groups have had some talks with Offer. They are likely to get a warm reaction if they decide to seek supply licences. "There are opportunities for people with different kinds of backgrounds and resources to move into this market, and I want to encourage that," Professor Littlechild said.

Sterling's Far East surge lifts shares

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

A SUDDEN spurt by the pound in Far Eastern markets perked up both shares and bonds in London yesterday, but dealers said that not too much should be read into this outbreak of optimism in thin, holiday trading.

The pound jumped on its index against a basket of currencies, ending the day at 83.6, up from 83.0 before Christmas. It added more than a pfennig against the mark to DM2.2330 in late trading and was nearly two cents up on the dollar, which was quoted at $1.5602 to the pound.

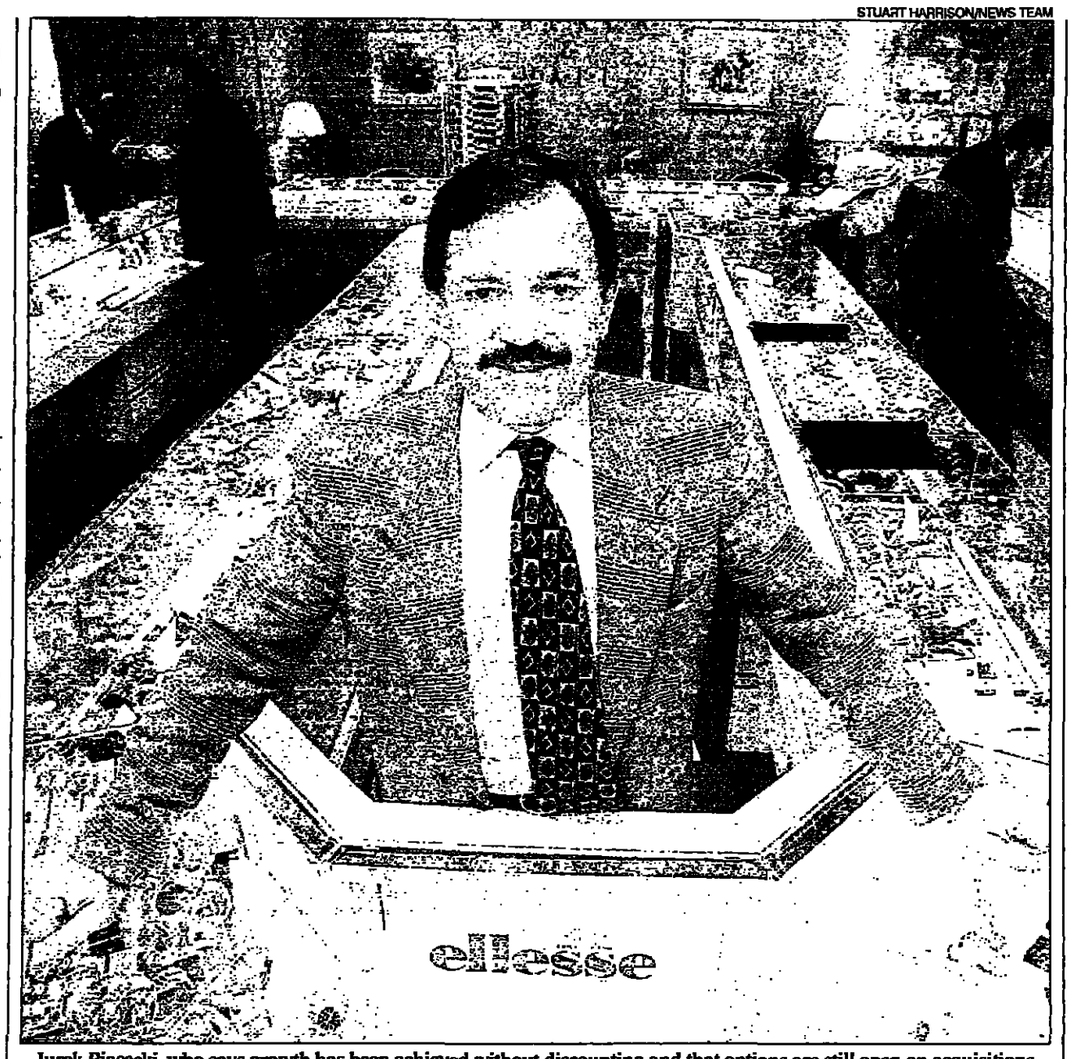
Most of this sharp upward movement came overnight before the London market opened. In Singapore, there were varying rumours of speculative buying by Middle Eastern traders, Swiss-based funds and an American hedge fund.

Traders in London said that the extra interest in sterling may be tied to the start on January 2 of the new gilt repo market in London. This will enable investors to lend gilt-edged stock in return for cash, which can then be used to finance other kinds of trading. Analysts believe that there will be strong interest in the opportunities of the new market, which should increase demand for sterling.

Gilts yesterday rallied by as much as a full point in reaction to sterling's rise and to stronger bonds overseas, but, again, traders said that trading was very thin and that movements were therefore exaggerated.

The gilt market is waiting for today's announcement by the Bank of England of its schedule for forthcoming gilt auctions. There will also be interest in today's publication of minutes of the November monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, since when base rates have been cut by a quarter point.

On the stock market, the FT-SE 100 index closed 18.1 points higher, at 3,676.4, just a few points below its all-time closing high.



Jurek Piasecki, who says growth has been achieved without discounting and that options are still open on acquisitions

Glad tidings from Goldsmiths

By Alasdair Murray

GOLDSMITHS, the jewellery company, enjoyed a sparkling Christmas, posting a 16 per cent rise in sales to Christmas Eve.

Like-for-like sales rose 8.7 per cent in December, while over the 11 months to December 24, total sales increased by 18.8 per cent and like-for-like sales rose 7.7 per. Shares closed up 2p at 227p.

Jurek Piasecki, chief executive, said that the growth had been achieved without discounting and that margins had risen slightly across the year. The results are likely to increase the pressure on Signet, formerly Ratners and struggling rivals.

Mr Piasecki said Goldsmiths was still interested in making a bid for Ernest Jones or H Samuel, which are owned by Signet, but that Signet was reluctant to enter into discussions. Goldsmiths is believed to have offered £250 million for the subsidiaries with the backing of venture capital funds.

Goldsmiths, founded in 1778, has 199 branches under the Goldsmiths and Walker and Hall banners. It is the UK's largest distributor of Rolex, Cartier, Ebel and Omega watches, but has concentrated in recent years on improving sales in higher-margin gold and diamond jewellery. Last year's profits were £3.2 million and analysts are forecasting about £4.2 million this year.

Goldsmiths' figures are likely to provide post-Christmas cheer for the City, which is looking for a strong showing from the retail sector after a poor autumn performance, with companies such as Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury reporting difficult trading conditions.

Early information suggests that high street sales have grown by between 6 per cent and 9 per cent on last year. The full extent of the Christmas improvement will not be known until companies such as Dixons, Asda and Marks & Spencer unveil their trading statements.

Tempus, page 24

Business Today

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3676.4	(+18.1)
Yield	3.88%	
FT-SE A All share	1795.71	(+8.02)
Nikkei	20011.76	(+107.04)
New York:		
Dow Jones	5115.67	(+5.42)*
S&P Composite	615.06	(+0.76)*
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 5/16%*	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	111 15/32*	(111 1/32)
Yield	6.01%*	(6.06%)
LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	6 5/32%	(6 5/32%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	n/a	(110 5/32)
STERLING		
New York:		
$	1.5600*	(1.5430)
London:		
$	1.5601	(1.5403)
DM	2.2311	(2.2250)
FFr	7.6730	(7.6260)
SFr	1.7977	(1.7946)
Yen	160.30	(157.98)
£ Index	83.6	(83.0)
DOLLAR		
London:		
DM	1.4298*	(1.4376)
FFr	4.8870*	(4.9195)
SFr	1.1525*	(1.1573)
Yen	102.76*	(102.30)
$ Index	93.7	(94.1)
Tokyo close Yen 102.52		
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Mar)	$17.80	($17.38)
GOLD		
London close	$387.35	($387.40)

* denotes midday trading price

Growth doubt

City and independent forecasters are unanimous in disputing the Government's Budget forecasts for 3 per cent growth and a 3.5 per cent rise in consumer spending next year, according to a comparison of predictions compiled by the Treasury. An average of 43 outside forecasters expects growth of 2.4 per cent and consumer spending of no more than 2.7 per cent. Page 22

Gas hopes

BP shares rose 10p to 545p after the oil giant announced a deal to explore for and to produce gas in the Sahara Desert with Sonatrach, the Algerian oil and gas company. Page 23

Hopes of payout grow as Forte confirms deal

By Christine Buckley

CITY hopes that Forte may offer a special payout to shareholders in a final defence against Granada sharpened when the hotels group confirmed the sale of its roadside businesses to Whitbread in a £1.05 billion deal.

The sale would leave Forte with gearing of about 9 per cent — a level from which it could sustain a substantial dividend to shareholders. Net proceeds from the sale are likely to exceed £850 million.

Expectations are growing among analysts that Forte will promise a package of shareholder giveaways made possible on the sale of the roadside businesses, which include Little Chef, Happy Eater, Welcome Break and Travelodge, in its final defence document, due by next Tuesday.

The price struck for the businesses topped City valuations which Forte had earmarked for demerger earlier this month. One analyst said: "This move will be hard to beat. The sale implements action identified by Granada and massively reduces debt." Under takeover rules, Sir Rocco Forte, chairman, could not comment on the contents of the defence document. He said the sale would leave the company better placed to focus its resources. "We will be purely a hotels group and well placed to take advantage of the upturn in the market."

The move switched the spotlight to Granada amid a growing belief that it would not raise its £3.3 billion unwelcome bid. Pressure is on the leisure group to lift its offer. Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, said: "Forte's break-up plan is an admission of its management's failure to obtain a reasonable return on its assets." The sale also marks a big step for Whitbread in its shift from its traditional brewing base. However, Peter Jarvis, chief executive, denied it was moving to pull out of brewing altogether.

Pennington, page 23



Sir Rocco, left, with Peter Jarvis after the sale was confirmed

Job fears 'hitting economic growth'

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

WIDESPREAD job insecurity is now a brake on economic growth and hampering the Government's electoral prospects, new poll evidence suggests today.

The findings of the Harris poll, suggesting most people believe their job is likely to be less secure in the coming year, specifically shows that both the housing market and consumer spending are likely to be hit by concern about employment.

The poll, conducted for the TUC, shows that 52 per cent of employees in Britain expect their jobs to be less secure in the coming year. Job insecurity affects all age groups, but especially those aged 35-44, and all social classes, with concern greatest in the highest social AB classes.

The findings suggest that key groups of voters — especially in the battleground of so-called Middle England that the Conservatives and the Labour Party will contest extensively at the general election — are nervous about their own jobs and so not feeling good about the economy. Three-quarters of the representative sample of 675 employees, questioned by phone between December 15 and December 17, expect to be put under more pressure at work. Again, pressure is felt most strongly among the middle-aged and the AB social classes.

In each case, people living in London, another key election battleground, feel insecurity at work most strongly.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said: "These are key groups which the Conservatives must win over before the next election, but their programme to scrap basic rights at work is doing the opposite."

The survey suggests that job insecurity is feeding directly through into people's main economic decisions.

Questioned about their action on the basis of their own or their family's employment position, as many as 73 per cent of those surveyed said it would make them less likely even to consider moving house.

Three-fifths said that it would restrict them from making major household purchases.

Fisons chief executive wins £2.5m payoff

By Alasdair Murray

STUART WALLIS, the departing chief executive of Fisons, the pharmaceutical company, has negotiated a £2.5 million payoff from its new owner, the French-controlled Rhône-Poulenc Rorer.

Mr Wallis, 50, has also been approached by several companies seeking his services and is currently considering an offer to be the non-executive chairman of a service sector company looking to float in the next three years. Mr Wallis is also believed to be seeking other directorships.

The bulk of the payoff package comes from 880,000 share options granted in November 1994 at 126p, which, when sold at the bid price of 265p, will yield a profit of £1.2 million.

Mr Wallis also receives two years' pay and a bonus, based on the performance of Fisons shares, worth about £740,000. His annual salary immediately before Rhône-Poulenc Rorer's bid was £315,000. Mr Wallis is eligible to draw a pension worth about £45,000 as soon as he departs, even though he served only 16 months with Fisons. The total pension package is believed to be worth about £600,000.

Fison has a history of big payoffs, which have been criticised by the City as unrelated to performance. Cedric Scroggs, the former chief executive, who was sacked in 1993, received a total payoff worth £750,000. However, Mr Wallis is facing no such criticism: under his leadership, the market worth of Fisons has risen from £740 million to £1.83 billion, the price paid by Rhône-Poulenc Rorer earlier this year. When Mr Wallis joined in 1994, the share price was near a ten-year low of 105½p, having fallen from more than 500p since 1991. Mr Wallis's strategy of selling non-core operations revitalised the stock market value of Fisons.

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Gtrdnd Eqty Ed	126.30	130.90	...	0.61
Gtrdnd Gth	76.64	78.01		5.10
Gtrdnd Jpnse	178.70	189.10†		

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General Acc	614.30	653.60		2.63
General Inc	527.80	561.50		2.63
UK Growth Acc	414.00	440.50		2.06
UK Growth Inc	376.80	293.50		2.06
Higher Inc Acc	759.90	808.50		4.20
Higher Inc Inc	422.90	449.90		4.20
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	386.30	217.60		6.51
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.94	100.10		5.51
Nth America	330.50	351.70		
Europe	319.70	340.20		0.70
Intl Exempt	82.83	88.12†		2.97
Intl Fxdintst Acc	111.20	118.40		4.76
Intl Fxdintst Inc	77.68	82.62		4.76
Global Opps	95.78	101.90†		0.30
Balanced Acc	98.31	94.17		2.85
Balanced Inc	97.71	61.40		2.85
Japan Acc	47.66	50.94		
Pac Basin Acc	385.70	410.40		1.01

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American Growth	333.80	356.60	+ 2.40	0.35
Asian Pacific	312.90	335.70	+ 2.40	0.15
Assets & Earnings	283.90	303.90†	+ 2.00	2.63
Euro Capital Acc	161.10	172.20	+ 2.50	0.60
Euro Inc	44.40	47.20	+ 0.36	9.51
General	262.20	278.90	+ 3.20	2.25
Global Opps	59.52	63.32	+ 0.62	0.47
Japan	128.80	135.60	- 0.10	
Managed Inc	47.35	50.38	+ 0.37	4.61
MarketSmart	153.50	164.20	+ 1.10	1.52
US Emerging Cos	174.00	185.10	+ 2.00	
Ethical	75.17	79.97	+ 0.61	2.45
International	127.80	136.00	+ 0.95	1.19
Dividend & Growth	66.52	70.65	+ 0.94	4.35
Global Gwth & Sec	70.88	75.75	+ 0.68	2.68

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Amer Inc & Growth	54.89	57.00	- 0.11	0.54
Cash	50.17	50.171	+ 0.003	5.85
Emerging Mkts	85.04	88.93	- 0.86	0.05
European	127.60	132.70	+ 0.40	
Exempt	1010.60	1080.00	- 0.10	1.72
Extra Income #	47.83	51.311	+ 0.003	6.83
Far East Emg Econ	119.90	125.90	- 0.90	0.50
Fixed Interest #	23.56	24.51†	- 0.01	9.59
Fixed Inv Tst	164.10	172.30		9.03
Japan	188.50	198.50	- 0.10	
Latin Americas	49.07	51.59		0.05
Pacific	80.81	84.85	- 0.81	0.31
Property Shrs	82.49	85.58	+ 0.19	7.66
Uk Emerging Cos	68.43	72.90	+ 0.15	1.76
UK Growth	49.17	52.07	+ 0.09	2.36
Abtr World Port #	77.90	79.44†	+ 0.67	2.08
Ethical	72.70	75.61†	+ 0.05	2.33
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.88	50.88†	+ 0.03	7.35

For ARBGN see Matheson

AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
0171 256 5688

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Result Property	97.41	100.50		5.10

ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD
01452 308 958

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Annuity Income	83.41	88.50	+ 0.34	7.75
Income Builder Inc	75.76	80.60†	+ 0.49	2.64

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC
IFA dlg: 01793 610 396 Client dlg: 01793 514 514

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	256.90	276.70	+ 2.30	2.82
Capital	456.90	488.40	+ 4.20	1.03
Guilt Inc	755.60	807.70†	+ 8.80	2.45
Accumulator	1445.00	1544.00	+ 16.00	2.62
Income Trusts				
American Income	57.54	61.40	- 0.10	2.98
High Income	426.90	456.30	+ 4.90	3.38
Equity Income	279.90	298.30	+ 2.10	3.15
High Yield	258.40	276.20	+ 3.10	3.15
Gen Securities	34.84	36.77	+ 0.31	5.77
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	185.20	197.90	- 1.10	0.35
European Growth	43.02	45.80	+ 0.28	0.07
International	178.00	190.10	- 0.50	0.17
Japan	207.60	221.20†	- 0.40	0.01
Pacific	402.00	429.70	- 2.50	0.01
Spec Sit Americas	526.40	560.40†	- 1.00	0.41
Worldwide Asset Val	52.60	56.22	- 0.14	0.21
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	574.30	613.90†	+ 5.70	2.08
Cons & Gds	44.86	47.74	+ 0.39	4.86
Smaller Cos	188.80	202.80†	+ 0.70	3.19
2nd Smaller Cos	179.80	192.20	+ 0.80	1.36
Recovery	150.70	161.00	+ 0.60	1.83
Mat Res & Cnty	165.10	176.40	- 3.80	0.67
Overs Earnings	383.30	408.70†	+ 3.70	1.56
Technology	2107.60	225.40†	+ 3.30	0.01
Uk Special Sits	526.50	562.80†	+ 7.20	1.54

B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
01293 536 911

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charpit Out Pens	110.80	115.10		3.04
Founding Pens Pens	66.25	68.83		1.44

BSI-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 606 0033

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capacit	77.68	82.84	+ 0.17	1.76
International	68.50	72.67	+ 1.31	

BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD
0131 222 4242

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
America	360.40	382.70		
Bond	120.90	127.70	- 0.50	6.61
Brit Smlr Cos	110.60	117.50	+ 0.20	1.71
Cons 5 Gen #	66.94	70.34	- 0.37	5.34
Europe	298.60	253.80†	- 0.20	0.63
Euro Smlr Cos	109.40	114.20†	- 1.60	0.84
Income Gwth	372.00	395.70	+ 1.20	3.68
Japan	333.30	355.00	+ 1.20	
Latin American	69.83	74.39	+ 0.06	
Pacific	105.60	112.50†	- 1.00	1.25
UK Smlr Cos	58.75	62.50	+ 0.17	1.29
Japan Fd	690.20	717.70	+ 1.90	
Mnpd Fd	191.30	203.20	+ 0.60	2.92

BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD
0171 488 8673

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bnk S Ocean	336.10	356.50		1.92
Capital Gwth	119.70	126.60		2.58
Wrwde Oppr	205.00	216.80		0.95

BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD
01481 734 5644

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Trusts:				
Blu Inv Fd Inc	386.30	402.30	+ 0.40	2.60
European Bd Inc	96.76	100.20	+ 0.29	6.70
Exempt	78.16	83.37	+ 0.27	4
Fixed Int	98.51	97.23†	+ 0.14	2.44
500	470.70	508.90	+ 1.10	2.67
General	299.20	320.40	+ 0.50	2.58
Property	237.80	255.30†		6.46
Income	287.70	221.50†	+ 2.60	2.58
Income Trusts:				
Cash Inc	101.10	107.10	- 0.10	5.76
Extra Income #	127.90	136.80	+ 0.30	4.93
Gilt & Fxd Int	58.88	60.98†	+ 0.13	6.10
Income	567.00	606.50	+ 1.40	3.78
Income Builder #	67.04	71.51	+ 0.04	5.46
Intl Income	67.22	71.51†	+ 0.04	3.16
Growth Trusts - UK				
Capital	132.10	140.90	+ 0.30	2.69
Limited	150.10	160.40	+ 0.40	0.92
Recovery	445.80	476.80	+ 0.60	2.87
Smlr Cos Inc	48.86	52.40	+ 0.11	2.35
Special Sits	338.60	362.10	+ 0.90	1.44
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
Americas	158.60	168.50†	- 0.20	0.28
Asia Acc	264.00	282.10	- 3.10	1.88
Asia Inc	159.20	170.10†	- 1.90	1.88
Euro Gwth Inc	168.20	178.60†	+ 1.20	0.63
do - Accum	181.90	192.90	+ 1.30	0.63
Japan & Gen Inc	168.30	178.10	- 0.30	
do - Accum	168.20	178.10	- 0.30	
Japan Spec Sits	75.76	80.26	+ 0.15	
Univ Tech Inc	90.36	96.17	+ 0.27	
Worldwide	186.30	197.70	+ 0.10	0.56

BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD
01273 214 1004

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Growth	114.20	120.90	- 0.20	
Asia Smlr Cos	146.20	156.50	+ 0.10	
Convertibles	54.46	58.32†	+ 0.18	5.49
Eastern	285.00	308.00	- 2.50	0.30
Equity Income	89.82	96.16	+ 0.50	3.80
European Growth	230.50	246.80†	+ 0.50	0.88
Europe	271.60	288.30†	- 0.60	1.97
German Growth	78.25	84.00	- 0.24	0.50
Global Bond	70.02	73.67	- 0.29	6.50
Global Growth	140.00	149.00†	- 0.70	
Japan Growth	205.40	219.80	+ 0.90	
Japan Smlr Cos	161.10	171.50	+ 0.60	
Malay Trust	73.46	79.81	- 1.42	
Pandasian	142.30	150.40†	+ 0.60	2.80
- do - Accum	261.40	276.80	+ 1.10	2.80
UK Growth	86.66	94.30†	+ 0.55	2.80
UK Smaller Cos	83.32	90.94	+ 0.29	2.50
Select Managers	81.92	87.72	+ 0.06	1.00

BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD
0171 250 3800

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Ins Gwth Port Inc	85.48	89.92		
Special Oppor Inc	58.94	62.70		

BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD
0141 223 6020

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	124.26	131.60	+ 0.21	1.62
- do - Accum	140.29	148.58	+ 0.24	1.62
Smaller Cos	124.86	132.13†	- 0.19	0.91
Higher Yield #	51.53	54.53	+ 0.12	4.25
American Gth Inc	86.97	91.61	+ 0.62	
Far Eastern Growth	143.70	150.80	+ 0.61	0.21
- do - Accum	145.12	153.57	+ 2.41	0.21
Global Bond Inc #	27.58	28.58†	+ 0.01	7.07
Mngd Pfolio Inc	47.64	49.76	+ 0.09	1.49
- do - Accum	48.34	51.03	+ 0.09	1.49
Int Spec Opps	128.95	147.03	+ 3.58	
Pacific Gth	132.62	140.34	- 0.61	0.30
UK General #	95.17	100.18†	+ 1.46	2.98
- do - Accum #	88.70	94.92	+ 1.53	2.98
Japan	61.71	65.30	- 0.49	
Gilt & Fixed Int #	101.56	105.39†	+ 0.23	8.46

BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
01277 480 7216

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Short Dated Gilt	67.89	68.76		6.17

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
0161 827 5080

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Environ	169.00	179.60†	+ 0.30	1.81
UK Growth	150.80	160.00	+ 0.70	2.03
UK Income	142.00	151.10	+ 0.30	4.30

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 892 100

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Can Gen Dist	217.70	230.80	+ 0.30	1.72
- do - Income Dist	117.00	124.00†	+ 0.60	4.03
- do - Accum	368.10	390.20	+ 1.70	4.03
Gilt & Fxd Int	41.78	44.29	+ 0.11	6.14
Growth Instn	429.70	245.70	+ 0.30	2.04
Bond	174.40	187.90	+ 0.56	6.17
Intl Growth	233.90	248.60	+ 0.20	0.72
North American	350.20	245.10	- 0.90	0.25
Far East	288.50	309.60	- 4.80	1.06
Uk Smaller Cos	195.70	209.30	+ 0.10	1.41
European	88.47	93.95	+ 0.08	0.64
Japanese Growth	29.56	32.65	- 0.14	
High Income	386.90	377.30	+ 0.70	3.88

CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD
0161 831 7433. Enq 0161 831 7455 (Dlg 0161 831 7455

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Americas & Gen	185.60	197.60	- 1.00	
European Inc	96.76	91.46	- 0.04	1.02
Smaller Cos (3-5)	91.92	97.90	+ 0.67	2.75
Growth	479.50	510.30	+ 1.10	1.75
Income & Growth #	341.00	363.20	+ 2.40	2.86
- do - Accum #	643.30	685.30	+ 3.50	3.86
Japan & Gen	71.86	75.76	+ 0.24	
Master Portfolio	110.75	118.48	+ 10.00	2.16
- do - Accum	124.31	132.81	+ 11.00	2.16
Special Sits	11.250	119.70	+ 0.30	1.85
High Yield	214.17	214.61†	+ 0.00	4.37

CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD
0171 606 0709

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cazenove Portfolio	94.93	101.46	+ 0.24	2.52
American Portfolio	111.42	118.29†	- 0.24	0.94
European Portfolio	110.60	118.29	+ 0.24	0.46
High Income	92.32	92.47	+ 0.14	6.00
Japanese Portfolio	71.41	74.87	+ 0.15	
Pacific Portfolio	148.68	157.09†	- 1.27	1.42
UK Inc & Growth	88.45	94.78	+ 0.41	2.98
Utility & Bond	57.51	58.19	- 0.04	6.58

CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Inv Fund	711.18	721.92		4.46
Fxd In Sec	157.85	158.49		9.02

COIF CHARITY FUNDS
0171 588 1815

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Investment Inc	716.94	727.78		4.39
Investment Acc	671.57	682.05		
Fixed Int Inc	139.07	139.59		8.81
Fixed Int Acc	216.47	217.33		

CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD
0171 407 5566

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Sredeman Intl	90.87	98.71	+ 0.81	3.01
Bank Bio-Tech	41.96	45.261		
Asian Ethical Tst	164.87	175.53†	- 0.64	0.64
City Fin Assets	76.74	80.58	+ 0.04	2.07
City Fin America	167.02	172.28	+ 2.26	
City Fin Intl	88.04	92.45	+ 0.64	0.89
City Fin Japan	152.84	161.55†	+ 0.89	
Fmsr: Hse Cap	289.79	313.93	+ 1.98	2.33
Fmsr: Hse Inc	165.42	308.34†	+ 0.86	4.33
Sredden World Gth	138.96	147.38	+ 2.36	
Fairmid Cap Gth	141.64	149.09†		
Fairmid Inc	154.01	162.12†		
J Sel Inc/Gth Inc	54.37	57.09†		2.90

CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300
Emerging Markets 54.52 57.86 - 0.13

CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD
0800 373 393

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Units	74.34	79.08	+ 0.11	
Dragon Growth	87.91	73.63	+ 0.91	0.87
Equity High Inc	89.52	94.17†	+ 0.46	4.03
- do - Accum	121.74	131.64	+ 0.65	4.03
Extra Income Inc	28.88	28.32	+ 0.05	7.19
Extra Income Acc	37.97	28.47	+ 0.05	7.19
European Units	57.79	61.32	+ 0.03	1.08
Evergreen	29.08	31.11	+ 0.12	
General Equity	95.54	101.37	+ 0.46	2.89
Japan Growth	53.19	56.58	+ 0.23	
Pacigrow Units	57.56	61.26	+ 0.24	2.58
Pref Sm Cos Inc	33.49	35.63	+ 0.05	1.54
- do - Accum	36.27	37.52	+ 0.07	1.58
Retirement Inc #	27.17	28.90	+ 0.15	5.82
Special Sits	42.36	45.05	+ 0.18	1.13
Uk & Overseas	55.10	58.46	+ 0.12	0.71

COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD
01634 898 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital	76.20	79.37	+ 0.37	1.92
Balanced	65.92	68.66	+ 0.27	4.09

COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD
0181 686 9818
PRESTIGE POSIT-DLG (PPT FUNDS)

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Income Funds:				
Equity Inc	173.22	184.28	+ 0.69	4.75
Fixed & Convertible	41.17	43.80	+ 0.05	6.64
Monthly Inc Plus	49.54	53.13	+ 0.09	8.43
Preference Share	47.11	50.12	+ 0.06	7.78
Balanced Funds:				
High Yield	131.63	140.03	+ 0.45	5.80
Managed Fund	73.78	77.96	+ 0.09	3.02
UK Growth Funds:				
Smaller Cos	43.34	46.11	- 0.16	1.76
- do - Accum	50.66	53.87	- 0.19	1.76
Uk & General	88.53	94.23	+ 0.35	2.71
- do - Accum	113.68	120.94	+ 0.46	2.71
UK Growth	167.70	178.40	+ 0.57	2.27
International Growth Funds:				
European Growth	202.16	215.06	+ 0.08	0.11
Far Eastern Grth	133.03	141.52	- 1.14	
Global Bond	84.16	88.49	- 0.31	5.91
Japan Growth	130.22	137.89	- 0.97	
North Amer Gwth	208.65	221.97	- 0.99	
Oriental Growth	79.62	84.70	- 0.77	0.05
Worldwide Growth	71.76	76.36	- 0.10	0.10
OTHER CU TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	92.51	93.51	+ 0.05	6.05
Monmouthsn Fund	87.86	93.49	+ 0.37	1.62
Quilter Fund	144.62	153.90	+ 0.51	1.58

CONSISTENT UNIT TST MGMT CO LTD
0171 407 5866

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Consistent UT	33.27	35.67		3.34

COOKE (HENRY) INV FUNDS LTD
0800 526 356

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Growth	170.10	181.00	- 0.60	1.79
Income	71.34	76.63	+ 0.27	5.72
European	65.97	70.18	+ 0.25	0.64
Recovery	162.10	177.80	- 0.20	2.08

CO-OP PENSION FDS UT MGRS LTD
0171 253 9494

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Dist	912.30	925.60†		3.50

CREDIT SUISSE INV FDS (UK) LTD
01277 680 370

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Fellowship Tst	90.56	99.53	+ 0.15	1.51
Income #	382.20	284.20	+ 1.50	4.21
- do - Accum #	686.30	729.60	+ 3.90	4.21
Smaller Cos	197.60	210.20†	+ 0.50	0.98
- do - Accum	254.40	269.60†	+ 0.60	0.98
Inv Portfolio	91.08	96.89	+ 0.30	1.54
High Inc Port #	77.90	82.87	+ 0.33	4.30

DARIUS INTL TST MGMT LTD
01624 811 000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc	76.20	79.37	+ 0.37	1.92
Equity Acc	76.20	79.37	+ 0.37	1.92
Fixed Int Inc	65.92	68.66	+ 0.27	4.09
Fixed Int Acc	65.92	68.66	+ 0.27	4.09

DEALOGIC UNIT TST MGMT LTD
01372 465 700

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dealogic Amer	94.93	101.46	+ 0.24	2.52
Dealogic Euro	111.42	118.29†	- 0.24	0.94
Dealogic Pac Bas	111.80	118.29	+ 0.24	0.46
Dealogic Tech	57.51	58.19	- 0.04	6.58

DEPOSITARY UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 628 8000

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Depositary Inc	97.43	102.50		5.10

DIVERSIFIED UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 377 8899

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dsct Inc	214.90	226.20		3.12

DUREDIN UNIT TST MGRS LTD
01.31 315 2500

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth	298.70	315.60	+ 0.50	0.67
New Asia	201.10	208.70	- 1.30	0.24
Japan Growth	112.70	120.00		
Jap Smlr Co	480.60	488.80	+ 2.60	
Nth Amer	353.50	373.70	- 1.20	0.79
Uk Inc & Gth	235.80	251.30†	+ 1.20	2.61

EAGLE STAR UNIT MGRS LTD
01242 577 955

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Balanced Inc	154.30	164.10†	+ 0.20	1.63
UK High Inc Inc	164.20	174.70†	+ 0.30	4.12
- do - Accum	217.80	231.70†	+ 0.60	4.12
UK Prop & Fi Int	69.54	85.15†	+ 0.15	4.95
Emrgmnt Opps	92.42	98.31	+ 0.11	0.95
UK Smlr Cos #	80.01	83.83	+ 0.12	0.01
Extra Income Inc	48.53	52.04	+ 0.04	7.80

EDINBURGH UNIT TST MGRS LTD
0345 090 526

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American	153.90	163.40	- 1.20	1.07
Commodities #	31.20	32.53†	+ 0.12	6.21
Equity Income #	134.70	143.40†	+ 0.80	3.70
Bond und	53.10	56.38	+ 0.16	0.25
Financial	49.68	52.79	+ 0.04	1.42
Growth & Inc #	365.60	382.20	+ 1.50	2.73
High Inc #	168.40	178.90†	+ 1.00	4.19
International	415.10	441.00	+ 0.10	0.11
Int Cap Inc	98.68	105.00	+ 0.30	2.61
Latin American	36.94	39.62	+ 0.07	
Pacific	80.86	85.91	- 0.83	
Prof High Inc	21.96	23.33	+ 0.09	7.07
Tokyo	238.50	253.20	+ 2.90	
Uk Smalles Cos	246.90	262.30	+ 0.10	1.05

ELY PLACE UNIT MGRS LTD
0171 242 0041

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
BR Dedicated Dlgs	99.90	106.39	+ 2.18	1.52
Growth Acc	244.54	261.11	+ 5.68	0.68
Income	580.67	619.67	- 1.66	5.19

ENDURANCE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 373 7281

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Endurance Fd	216.00	229.80		1.20

EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD
01.256 471 480

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European	85.75	90.26	+ 0.58	2.03
Ethical Tst	46.39	48.83	+ 0.13	1.33
Far Eastern	303.99	319.99	- 2.40	1.65
High Income	133.99	143.04	+ 1.70	4.89
Ind Growth	124.88	131.45	+ 0.65	1.53
North American	133.43	140.52	- 0.04	1.55
Pelican	129.50	136.26	+ 1.59	2.28
Smaller Cos	66.16	69.64†	+ 0.35	2.89
Special Sits	88.87	93.55	+ 0.50	2.32
Tst of Inv Tsts	197.34	207.73	+ 1.28	1.25

EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD
0171 407 5866

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Smaller Cos Inc	203.97	216.99	+ 0.25	1.39
Smaller Cos Acc	360.97	384.01	- 0.44	1.20
Recovery	50.85	54.10†	- 0.29	1.57
Recovery Acc	52.09	55.41†	+ 0.29	1.57

EXETER FUND MANAGERS LTD
01392 412 144

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital Growth	87.09	93.39	+ 0.06	
Fd of Inv Trsts	48.60	51.84	+ 0.01	0.56
High Income #	39.92	42.62	- 0.02	10.50
Warrant	50.54	57.11	+ 0.17	
Zero Preference	42.25	44.83†		

FAMILY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
01273 220 707

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Family Assets Tst	81.62	86.62	+ 0.30	3.23
Family Income Tst	45.64	45.64	+ 0.002	6.64
Family Trust	89.54	95.25	- 1.12	2.55
United Charities	268.96	286.00	- 0.800	5.05

FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVS LTD
Callers, Private Clients: 0800 414 161

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	100.00	100.00		6.00
Cash Fund				
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	28.19	28.77†	+ 0.02	7.07
Intl Bond	30.20	31.13	- 0.20	5.36
Income Funds				
High Income	76.50	36.81†	+ 0.05	5.38
Income Plus	120.40	128.10†	- 0.40	4.13
Japan Eq Inc	36.43	60.21	- 0.35	1.47
European Income	45.04	47.92	- 0.01	3.39
Far East Inc	67.51	71.75†	- 0.22	2.29
Global Conversible	24.27	25.79†	- 0.02	2.71
UK Dis Gth	37.47	39.74	+ 0.07	2.23
Equity Funds				
ASEAN	64.23	68.52	- 0.99	
American	307.80	319.70	- 1.70	
Amer Spec Sits	164.10	175.30	+ 1.10	
Japan Smaller Cos	36.76	39.22	+ 0.27	
European	155.50	207.40		0.65
European Opps	49.94	74.37	- 0.20	0.15
Global Priv	37.36	39.18	- 0.12	0.17
UK Growth	106.30	113.30		1.26
Growth & Inc	158.80	170.10	+ 0.50	2.77
Intl PEP	42.78	45.78	+ 0.01	1.07
Japan Spec Sits	92.09	98.08	+ 1.05	
Japan	185.50	200.50		
Managed Inc	321.30	341.60	- 0.60	0.44
Money Builder	68.04	63.84	+ 0.05	
Recovery	50.85	54.09	+ 0.12	1.13
South E Asia	168.70	180.00	- 1.10	1.08
Special Sits	555.50	593.20	+ 1.10	0.75
Specialist Funds				
Cash Accum Units	112.37	117.37	+ 0.07	6.00

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced #	143.10	146.00	+ 2.10	2.01
Inc Pfolio #	89.75	91.30†	- 0.25	3.39
Cap Pfolio	152.90	155.30†	+ 0.20	1.49
General Opps	134.10	135.60	+ 2.10	3.45
Growth Inc	34.15	34.68†	+ 0.64	1.54
Private Portfolio	456.60	463.30	+ 7.60	1.54

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos	125.10	132.20	+ 0.20	0.74
Emrg Asian	153.20	163.90	- 1.10	
Emrg Income	71.51	22.87†	+ 0.08	9.64
UK Growth	119.40	126.60	+ 0.60	2.12
Uk Income	108.30	115.70

☐ Make or break time for Granada ☐ Writing on the wall for the publishers ☐ A snowstorm of housing forecasts

Forte's lightning roadside break

☐ THERE have been a fair few Christmases ruined by the weekend's untimely leak of Whitbread's purchase of the vulgar roadside and motorway catering bits of Forte, which would leave Sir Rocco to run his decidedly upmarket hotels.

Forte's advisers have been scampering around trying to present the deal as a favourable one, even if the timing was forced on the company by the Granada bid. Granada have been well and truly taken unawares by the speed of the Whitbread strike.

Shareholders should be pleased, because the news has clarified the position wonderfully. If the Granada offer or a higher one succeeds, then the Whitbread purchase is off. Investors can therefore take whatever mix and match of Granada cash and shares they care for or are allowed, that mix deciding whether they back Gerry Robinson and his team's skills in running the enlarged Forte group better than the incumbents, led by Sir Rocco.

If Granada fails, Forte shareholders are left with equity in a pure hotels group owning some of the better brands and with no debt. Added credibility would be gained by the parachuting in from outside of a new chief executive not connected with the Forte family.

Forte is getting a headline figure of £1.05 billion, but this sum will drop to below £1 billion once various loose ends have been tied up, including buying out minority holders in some of the businesses and sorting out those premises held on sale and leaseback.

Less than £100 million will be payable in tax, and the resulting cash would cut borrowings to just £250 million and leave gearing below 10 per cent. Further tidying up — disposing of the Savoy stake, worth £220 million, and the eventual sale of White Hart hotels worth approaching £100 million — would then wipe out debt.

If only it were that simple. There is, alas, the small matter of the Danegeld that Forte will have to pay in the form of special dividends, share buybacks or other bribes to its own shareholders to keep them loyal. These have so far only been whispered but must be quantified in the next Forte document, expected on Tuesday, the first working day of 1996.

City institutions, rightly or wrongly, want some of those proceeds of sale diverted their way, and they should remember to thank the Granada camp who forced the action upon Sir Rocco. This will be little comfort to Granada, now faced with the awkward decision of how much more it can afford to pay.

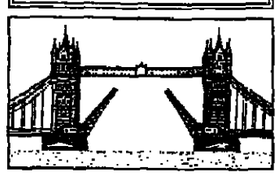
With a Forte share price only just ahead of the terms on offer, the indication is that not much more will be on offer. After its abrupt share price decline since the bid was launched, Granada is desperate not to be seen to overpay. The group would anyway have enormous difficulty underwriting a bid anywhere near the 380p-a-share area now being dreamed of by the City.

Sad chapter for the book trade

☐ IT IS getting to that time of the year when one can start spotting the winners and losers of the Christmas shopping rush. However the jewellery trade may claim to be doing, the reckoning is that one of the losers must be the book trade.

The disintegration of the Net Book Agreement this autumn

PENNINGTON



has not been the swift stimulus that was meant to halt the long decline of book sales.

The first warning came a fortnight ago, when as part of Pearson's raft of bad news the venerable Penguin imprint said times were pretty rotten in the bookshops, blaming the trend towards lower retail margins. That was started, of course, by the disappearance of the NBA.

Enthusiasts for doing away with the old price-fixing agreement had suggested that its abolition would pave the way for a renaissance for the book trade. Consumers who balked at paying up to £20 for an item they might consume in an evening would be encouraged by lower prices. Others, drawn into the shops by the bargains on offer, would be newly converted to the pleasures of the written word.

It didn't happen. As little as 5 per cent of publishers' lists of new books are discounted, nowhere near enough to create a sea change in public perceptions. Plenty of copies of Delia Smith and her ilk walked off the shelves, but at prices that offered little real profit for seller or publisher alike — the saintly Delia is going for half price, for example. If anything, such bargain hunting may have drawn customers away from the full-priced titles.

Other factors have exacerbated the trade's problems. Stock levels have been falling for years, to the extent that one can no longer expect to walk into a decent bookshop and find the majority of the *oeuvre* of any middle-ranking novelist on display. This trend has been accelerated by a move to centralised buying by big chains such as WH Smith, which cuts the size of orders from the publishers.

Firms such as Penguin are to some extent protected by their range of classics, but the shelf life of the average new title has been falling, and payback often has to come within the year. This is bad news for some of the newer, pushier breed of publishers, the huge majority of whose lists are now effectively fashion items.

Lies, statistics and house prices

☐ WHEN surveying the blizzard of surveys, prognostications and plain guesses on the state of the 1996 housing market now on display, it is worth keeping two facts firmly in mind.

The first is that they just don't know. House prices are harder to forecast than virtually any other economic statistic. As in sub-atomic physics, the market is weirdly affected by the presence of the observer, and one of the most important uncertainties is the expectation among house-owners of what prices will do next.

The second is that they all have their axes to grind. The mortgage providers are looking for 2 per cent inflation (Halifax) or 3 per cent (Nationwide). They have their own reasons for puffing the market, but such lowly forecasts do not look like heralding much of a boom. If the Halifax is right, and City forecasts of 2.7 per cent inflation are likewise, then owners will have lost money again in real terms on their homes. Last year the Halifax was wrong, a 2 per cent forecast rise translating into an actual 1 per cent fall.

The Labour Party has its own reasons for piling on the gloom. The party has research showing which marginal constituencies have been worst hit by house price falls, and it will be out there terrifying potential voters in those areas. In the real world, homes by the end of 1996 will be just as habitable as at the start of it, given a little wear and tear — except for those unfortunate souls required to move, but trapped by negative equity.

Troubl'at t'millpond

TROUBLE, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. The boardroom at Yorkshire Water should indeed be in uproar, even if standpipes are still only a threat for its consumers. But plans to find a new chairman to succeed Sir Gordon Jones, a youthful 70 in 18 months time, do not amount to the sort of corporate bloodletting critics of the country's most hated water company had in mind.

BP shares soar to record after $3.5bn Algerian deal



Deal gives BP's Sir David Simon a foothold in gas market

BY CARL MORTISHED

BP shares raced to a new high yesterday as the City seized the first opportunity to assess a $3.5 billion gas deal clinched over the Christmas weekend.

The shares rose 10p to 545p after the oil company said that the agreement with Sonatrach, the Algerian state oil company, to develop gas reserves deep in the Sahara, will increase BP's worldwide gas production by 30 per cent.

The deal with Sonatrach also gives BP, whose chairman is Sir David Simon, a foothold in the growing European gas market. A joint venture company will sell some 10 billion cubic metres of gas per year into Southern Europe via the Transmed pipeline into Italy and another pipeline, currently under construction, will transport gas via Morocco into Spain.

John Browne, BP exploration director, said it was a landmark agreement: "It is the first major gas joint venture, a foreign company has signed with Sonatrach, the sole gas producer in Algerian for the past 30 years.

"It has the potential to open up a new area of gas production in Algeria and, from the next decade onwards, to give European consumers greater choice in their sources of gas supply."

Oil analysts thought the terms of the production and marketing deal was largely favourable to BP. The British company will take 30 per cent of net profit after expenses of the gas sold. Under a typical production sharing contract, the foreign oil company is likely to earn 15 per cent of the net profit.

Political risk is likely to be the reason for the higher than normal profit share. Algeria has been in civil war since the government cancelled elections in 1992 which the Islamist opposition were expected to win. Since then, armed opposition groups have waged war against the Government and have targeted foreigners, killing two pipeline workers last year.

Both the Opposition and the Government understand the importance of oil and gas which underpins the Algerian economy and makes up over 90 per cent of foreign revenues. In April, the Government cordoned off huge areas of the desert and is believed to be in negotiations with other foreing oil companies, including Exxon.

Sonatrach already exports some 30 billion cubic metres of gas, mainly to Italy by pipeline and liquefied gas by ship to Spain, France and Belgium.

Tempus, page 24

Dispute ends at Tate & Lyle subsidiary

THE long-running dispute over working conditions at Staley, Tate & Lyle's US subsidiary, ended yesterday after union members voted to accept the latest offer (Alasdair Murray writes).

Fifty-six per cent voted to accept the offer although it was not recommended by their union, the United Paperworkers International Union. The new contracts include improved severance pay and pension rights, union representation and a no-strike clause. Union members said they will return to work from January.

The dispute began three years ago, after Larry Pillard, Staley chief executive, shortly to take over from Sir Neil Shaw as chief executive of T&L, launched a programme to improve productivity. T&L shares rose 6p to 468p.

Power firms get £680m sale boost

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

ELECTRICITY shareholders are likely to be in line for more payouts next year after their companies swept up about £680 million from the sale of a hydroelectricity division.

Proceeds from the sale of First Hydro exceeded expectations after Mission Energy, of the US, outbid rivals that included Scotland's Hydro-Electric. The regional electricity companies, which have this year passed millions of pounds to their shareholders in special dividends and other returns, are not outlining plans for their cash, but analysts expect similar actions from the companies, which have pledged to boost shareholder returns and gear up their balance sheets.

First Hydro, which operates hydroelectricity plants in Wales, had been part of the National Grid, which was jointly owned by all the regional electricity companies before its flotation this month.

The cash returns for the companies, which had differing stakes in the business, are considerable. The highest beneficiaries include Southern Electric, which received £74.5 million from its 10.95 per cent interest, London Electricity (£71 million from 10.46 per cent) and Midlands Electricity (£62.4 million from 9.17 per cent). Seeboard netted £50 million from its 7.3 per cent and Northern Electric £44 million from its 6.47 per cent.

The price paid for First Hydro, which was £652.5 million, with the remainder of the benefit to the electricity companies coming from its cash balances, was much higher than the City's initial expectations, by which the price had been pitched at £350 million.

Codelco sues metal firm after losses

CODELCO, Chile's state-owned copper combine, which lost $170 million through futures trading in 1993, is suing Sogemin, a London metal firm, to try to regain some of its losses (Colin Campbell writes).

The suit comes after two years of investigations into trading on the futures market by Juan Pablo Davila, a former Codelco trader, against whom fraud charges were laid last July. The copper scandal rocked Chile, and Codelco's then-president resigned.

Juan Villarzu, Codelco's new president, said that Chile was determined to "discover the truth and punish those who are guilty", but conceded that Codelco does not expect to recover all of its losses.

Chilean authorities say funds connected with the copper futures deals have been traced to banks in unidentified tax havens in the Caribbean.

Nabisco fearful of priests' crusade

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

CAPITALISM makes strange bedfellows.

RJR Nabisco, the tobacco and foods conglomerate, was beginning to think it may have fought off the assault by two of America's most feared corporate raiders, Carl Icahn and Bennet LeBow. The two financiers want to spin off the food from the tobacco interests, but RJR has successfully stalled their resolution in the courts.

Until, that is, two small groups of Roman Catholic priests popped up with an independent spin-off proposal of their own. The priests own a total of 980 shares but, unfortunately for RJR, their proposal has to be taken just as seriously as that of Icahn and LeBow, who own 4.8 per cent of the entire company.

The priests are as surprised as anyone at their new role as allies of two such red-blooded capitalists. The Rev Michael Cosby, a member of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and a brother of the Capuchin Franciscan order in Milwaukee, said: "If a celibate can use the phrase, sometimes you end up with strange bed partners."

Mr LeBow, who does not wear his religious convictions on his sleeve, remarked: "Interest in an immediate spin-off is clearly non-denominational." But while Mr Icahn and Mr LeBow want the spin-off because they smell profits, the priests support it on the moral grounds that a wicked tobacco company should not be linked to a perfectly good food company.

RJR has had to take this new threat seriously. If the Icahn-LeBow resolution fails against the company's legal challenge, shareholders will still be able to vote on the priests' proposal at an annual meeting in April. RJR has already fired off a complaint to the Securities and Exchange Commission and has tried unsuccessfully to persuade the priests to drop their proposal.

The embattled company senses a formidable combination of interests it may not be able to beat. "If you're a shareholder with a heart, you'd want to vote with the priests," said Sarah Teslik, executive director of the Council of Institutional Investors. "If you're an investor with a pocket-book, you'd want to vote with LeBow and Icahn. RJR's horse-trading suggests they are scared to death of the spin-off proposal."

It would be ironic if RJR Nabisco, once the target of the biggest and most notorious management buyout of all time, was finally broken up by a group of priests who disapproved of smoking.

MORTGAGES
NOTICE OF INTEREST RATE VARIATION ON MORTGAGES FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND BRANCHES

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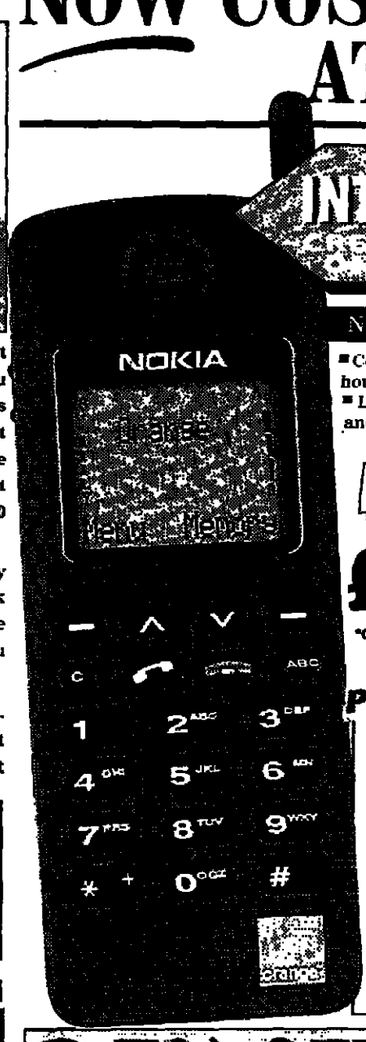
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ACCOUNTANCY

Steering group on tax vital

David Brodie advocates taking action now to guard standards

If you fancy running your own business, you could look at setting up shop as a tax adviser, helping the public with their tax returns. Indeed, you could undercut the big accountancy firms, with their expensive overheads, and it could be a nice little earner.

It is still not widely appreciated that — in spite of increasing regulation of the accountancy profession — absolutely anyone can set up as a tax adviser, regardless of qualifications or experience.

TaxAid provides free advice to people with tax problems who cannot afford to pay for help and several of our clients have, in more prosperous times, employed tax professionals. Last year, 62 clients sought help from us in resolving the consequences of misconduct by former advisers.

Complaints ranged from negligence in failing to deal with appeals or returns on time, to incompetence evidenced by fundamental errors in tax computations, to disappearances with clients' records and the occasional fraud. These cases comprised 4 per cent of our work which, if extrapolated nationwide, suggests a big problem. This view has been echoed by Elizabeth Filkin, the Revenue Adjudicator. In her recent report, she said: "We drew attention in last year's report to the poor quality of service we had seen provided to some complainants. We have continued to see worrying examples of apparently poor practice."

It is generally accepted by all those working in the tax field that there are practitioners whose conduct falls below acceptable standards, and poor practice is not limited to unqualified practitioners. Indeed, there are many former Revenue employees now in private practice providing a far more proficient specialist tax service than some "qualified" individuals.

So why has nothing been done? Perhaps because historically no one has seen it as their problem. The Revenue has always taken a neutral line and says it will work with any agent whom the taxpayer appoints — although it is known that local tax offices do have informal "blacklists" of dodgy practitioners. The traditional view of the professional bodies has been that the public should seek advice from their own members, who have passed examinations and are subject to the disciplinary regime of their institute. A related argument has been that people should be free to appoint who they like. But the choices facing someone appointing a tax adviser are complex. More importantly, the issue can no longer be ducked with the impending introduction of self-assessment in 1996-97. In spite of government denials, many will be consulting an adviser for the first time. Unregulated "tax shops" will inevitably mushroom, staffed by people with good computers but little understanding of tax.

TONY WHITE



David Brodie wants regulation before problems arise

In the absence of regulation, problems will spiral, leading to public demands for change. Any resulting scheme, introduced speedily, could saddle all tax professionals — including members of the professional bodies — with a much more bureaucratic and costly regime than if they had taken the initiative in the first place.

Faced by this scenario, TaxAid has published a report, sponsored by the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, which explores the issues in detail and looks at the solutions adopted in other countries. Written by Sue Green of Bristol University, the report recommends the formation of a steering group to take the issue forward as a matter of urgency. The report has been welcomed by the Chartered Institute of Taxation, which describes itself as "the leading professional body in the UK concerned solely with taxation". It says that any new regime should be independent of the Revenue.

The tax faculty of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the other leading player, has not been as enthusiastic. It fears the costs of any new system, but says it may change its views if it is apparent that incompetent or dishonest advice is a greater problem than hitherto realised.

Copies of the report are available free by writing to Sue Green, Dept of Economics, University of Bristol, 8 Woodland Road, Bristol BS8 1TN.

The author is director of TaxAid

Blood, sweat and accountancy at PW

IT IS the season of unused book tokens. And what better to do with them than buy a history of Price Waterhouse? I mean it. The book, in spite of its slightly ponderous title: *True and Fair — A History of Price Waterhouse*, is a rattling good read.

Take Sammy Price, one of the founding fathers, who was born the eleventh child of a Bristol potter in 1821. The other half of the founding names, Edwin Waterhouse, was said to have had "the greatest admiration for him, not only as an accountant but as a pugilist. If he ever saw a fight going on nothing could stop him from diving in and having a good time. In the days of the Fenian riots in the 1880s, on several occasions he turned up to the office in a very dishevelled and somewhat bloodstained condition".

Or you could use the excellent maps and research to retrace the Victorian network of the embryo accountancy profession. The key to the growth of accountancy in London was the location of the bankruptcy court in Basinghall Street, with nearly all the fledgeling profession's work in what was seen as the unsavoury business of sorting out the affairs of bust companies.

To judge from the maps, William Welch Deloitte had the office by far the closest to the court. But as Edgar Jones, author of the book, points out, the success of what became Price Waterhouse was due to arriving slightly late on the scene. While other firms remained insolvency based, Price and Waterhouse concentrated on the new business of auditing. They caught the railway boom and never looked back. The income was phenomenal, as indeed it has been throughout the firm's history. It is only a pity that the earnings figures charted in the book cease at 1975.



ROBERT BRUCE

There are serious points and parallels to be drawn from the book as well. The profession's greatest period was probably the 1920s and for Price Waterhouse their greatest asset was Sir Gilbert Garnsey. Described in the popular press as "the wizard of accountancy" he was, says Jones, "almost without rival in the City as an accountant of popular esteem".

This is the period when the profession was blessed with people who blended supreme technical ability with administrative brilliance and enormous flair at getting the work in. Garnsey was probably the greatest at combining these elements. But overwork got him. He died in 1932 just before taking up the position of senior partner. "His estate," Jones records, "was valued at £151,466 gross, a substantial sum by the standards of the day."

Then, as now, great growth also brought scandals. The Royal Mail Steam Packet case in 1931 was the most famous. The company had relied on secret transfers of reserves to make it appear profitable. It went bust. The dominant chairman and the Price Waterhouse auditor, Harold Morland, went on trial accused of publishing false statements.

Morland argued that the balance sheet was true and fair. Counsel asked him: "It is very important for a shareholder to know . . . what current earnings his company is making?" To which Morland replied: "I do not see why." Both were acquitted. Morland's wife rang the court before the verdict to ask whether he was likely to be late for dinner that evening. "Yes, madam," said his solicitor. "I should think about 12 months late."

In spite of the acquittal, the trial was a setback for the profession and gradually it retreated into an insular world of technical argument. Referring to two senior partners in the postwar years, Jones says: "Neither sought innovation. Neither saw themselves as businessmen or as men who were running a commercial enterprise for profit."

Those words have a ring about them. They are the sort of concept condemned in the 1980s as the firms went for growth. Then, as in Garnsey's day, it all ended in the courts.

There is a need to break this circle. At the conference with which Price Waterhouse celebrated publication of the book, Professor Geoffrey Whittington argued that accountancy is "still an adolescent profession". He thought the sheer multitude of services it offers showed that clearly. But in the future, he argued, quality would be more important than quantity.

Or as Jones writes: "The modern image of a successful accountant is a person who is assertive, committed, technically expert and ambitious. The contrast with those unqualified Victorian progenitors who congregated in City bars waiting for lucrative insolvency commissions to fall into their laps is sharp." *True and Fair*, by Edgar Jones, is published by Hamish Hamilton at £25.

A change of hat for PW man

THE wearing of two hats at once can confuse a person. Last week, the *Money Programme* did a brief item on the move by firms such as Price Waterhouse towards setting up limited liability partnerships in Jersey. Imagine informed viewers' surprise when the spokesman appearing for the English ICA turned out to be one Graham Ward, who also happens, though the caption on the screen failed to mention it, to be a partner at Price Waterhouse. There was even greater surprise when this institute spokesman was asked to comment on an aspect of Price Waterhouse's actions. "I wouldn't know about that," said Ward. Some viewers claimed to detect a faint smile on his face.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Takeaway pies

SCANDAL is afoot at the headquarters of the English ICA. All the goodwill of Christmas was set aside as questions of theft were aired beneath the holly and the tinsel. The press conference to announce the proposals for a merger between the English ICA and CIMA, the management accounting body, was conducted in a spirit of jolly seasonal bonhomie. And Brian Currie, the deputy president, ended it with an invitation to join him for mince pies. The problem was that the trolley outside the door was bare. As a spokeswoman succinctly put it: "They'd been stolen."

To coin a phrase

THE card of the season was undoubtedly that from *CA Magazine*, the Scots ICA business magazine. It was called the "three years of solid economic growth Christmas card" and claimed to be so cost-effective that the magazine was able to refund 50p affixed to the back of each card. Inside the card, one Penny Prim gave interesting advice on things to do with your 50p. The coin, of course, was missing. But a helpline number for just such emergencies was available. On that Ms Prim was informing callers that they were sad old skinflints.

THE devil, of course, is in the detail. The Inland Revenue report, The Path To Tax Simplification, *runs to an admirably brief 43 pages. But the background papers total 181.*

ROBERT BRUCE

GENERAL APPOINTMENTS

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The appointment will be on a fixed term basis and general terms and conditions of employment are in accordance with the Police (Scotland) Regulations 1976 as amended and any local conditions determined by the Police Authority. Please quote ref POA/17/T.

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Firemaster

Salary Under Review

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced serving Officers. Applicants should be Corporate Members of the Institution of Fire Engineers and have attended the Brigade command course. The post falls vacant in March following the retirement of the current postholder.

Conditions of Service are in accordance with the National Joint Council for Fire Brigades and any local conditions determined by the Fire Authority. Please quote ref FRA/1/T.

Application forms are available from the Department of Personnel and Management Services, Fife Regional Council, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes, KY7 5LT or by telephoning (01592) 413565 or (01592) 416140 (ansaphone outwith office hours) where completed forms should be returned not later than Friday 19 January 1996. Please quote appropriate reference.

Working for Equality

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Candidates should be graduates with experience in at least one of the above areas and be familiar with all aspects of 3D processing, preferably gained on interactive systems. The senior position requires a highly-motivated self-starter, capable of leading complex projects, having strong technical abilities and well developed communication skills.

INTERPRETATION GEOPHYSICIST

We are looking for a graduate interpretation geophysicist with at least 3 years experience, preferably gained in an oil company exploration environment, to work on model building and interpretation for imaging and inversion. Knowledge of *IntegralPlus* would be an advantage. Additional skills in well log analysis and geostatistics are desirable.

Please write with full personal and career details to:
The Personnel Department,
CGG House, 4 Dukes Green Avenue, Feltham,
Middlesex TW14 0LR

MAKE AN IMPACT IN BUSINESS RE-ENGINEERING

Computacenter is the UK's leading independent provider of distributed IT systems and services. Since its formation in 1981 the company's revenues have grown to more than twice the size of its nearest competitor, and are still growing at around 25% a year.

Our work continues to have a major influence on the future of personal computing, and, in turn, on how large corporate and government organisations conduct their business.

Much of our success can be attributed to our ability to manage change - continually evolving and re-structuring our operation in order to meet its expanding needs and changing priorities. To that effect we are looking for an individual to join our highly professional business re-engineering project team. The team's task is to investigate the company's business areas, anticipate their needs, and introduce new systems, methods and structures to support growth.

Operating from St. Albans, this is a project-based role in which you will interface with staff and operational management across a broad range of business areas and geographic locations. To succeed you will need to be an excellent communicator, probably aged in your late 20's and an MBA, ideally with some experience of change management or business consultancy. Highly computer literate, you will have excellent analytical skills and a positive, enthusiastic approach.

For the right combination of skills, experience and personality, the role offers a high profile and outstanding career prospects. If you think you can make the right impact, please write with CV, quoting ref ST/96, to Judith Adamson at: Computacenter, Computacenter House, 93 - 101 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HL. Tel: 0171-593 4833. Fax: 0171-401 3326.

Computacenter

World city. World identity. World vision.

LONDON Tourist Board and Convention Bureau

The London Tourist Board and Convention Bureau is the official tourist and visitor organisation for Greater London. A private company, its mission is to promote London as the single greatest city in the world for both business and leisure visitors and to increase revenue from tourism. In representing its membership, it must ensure that the industry acts in a co-ordinated way working with national and local government to develop the Capital and influence national tourism policies.

Managing Director

Excellent Salary and Benefits Package

A uniquely challenging role has arisen for an experienced senior manager with the ideas and know-how to firmly establish London as the tourist capital of the world. There couldn't be a more exciting time to join this vibrant company, as the capital will be launching its first ever co-ordinated marketing programme in the new year. The job holder's prime task will be to maximise the impact of this initiative world-wide and to win industry funding for it.

In this high profile and varied position, reporting directly to the Chairman of the Board, you will carry out a wide range of other tasks to further London's tourist industry. This role requires a visionary leader, who can demonstrate a record of success and innovation. With a business qualification (probably a degree) and extensive senior management experience in a service industry (preferably travel or tourism), you will need sophisticated communication skills and a good understanding of the workings and structure of national and local government. Complementing these will be a strong and outgoing personality and the confidence and presence to inspire, motivate, persuade and negotiate as the situation demands.

If you believe you have the skills to make London the centre of attention, please send your full CV to: Mrs Judith Osborne, C/O The Managing Director, London Tourist Board & Convention Bureau, 26 Grosvenor Gardens, Victoria, London SW1W 0DU.

The London Tourist Board and Convention Bureau is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all.

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DECEMBER 28 1995

Prices squeezed higher in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2937½	2137½	ABN-AMRO	2865⅝	-68¾	4.5	10.7
654	413	Abbey Nat	638	+6	3.8	12.8
368	250	Allied Irish	346	+1	4.2	10.1
303	198	Aus New Z	298	-4	5.3	
4425	2531¼	Bank America	4175	+68¾		
307½	191½	Bank Scotland	279½	-1½	2.7	12.4
812½	557½	Barclays	743	-4	3.8	10.1
488	298	Bk of Ireland	467	-½	3.6	9.4
525	418	Cater Allen	428	-7	8.8	7.1
4718¾	2450	Citicorp	4300	+31¼		
340½	216½	Close Bros	318	-1	3.4	14.1
£162¼	£129¼	Commerzbk	£152¼	+109¾	3.5	
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1268½	-18¾	0.4	
3231¼	2275	Deutsche Bk	3090¾	+9¾	2.4	
821¼	568¾	Espirito Santo	578½	-25	6.1	7.8
1611	1138¾	Fuji Bank Y	1468½	-56¼	0.4	
480	395	Gerrard Nat	444		6.3	14.3
253	180	Hambros	199	+2	4.7	
1019	589	HSBC	999	-1	3.5	17.0
994	578	HSBC HK	972½	-4½	3.6	12.7
463	228	Irish Perm	400		2.0	9.2
463	353	Joseph (L)	448		5.2	25.0
145	85	King Shaxson	136½	-4½	8.2	10.6
895	530	Lloyds	847	+5	4.0	13.6
592	470	Nat Aust Bk	583	-4	6.8	
697	454	Nat West	654	-2	4.3	10.2
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500		6.5	3.4
87	44	Rea Brothers	66		1.9	26.4
639½	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	572	-1	3.5	13.0
1478	906¾	Schroders	1310	+7	1.4	18.7
1180	823¼	Schroders N/V	1095	-3	1.6	15.6
111	81	Singer & Fried	109		4.2	11.3
625	246	Stand Chart	543	-1	2.1	13.6
417	217	TSB	391	+2	3.6	13.9
121	70	Ulster	93	-3	4.0	
£145¾	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£138	+25	2.1	
270	211	Westpac	265½	-1½	5.1	
295	200	Wintrust	275		5.4	15.5

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
265	143	Ascot Hldgs	263	+1		0.5
731	487	Bass	714	+11	4.0	
472	239	Boddington	472	+6	2.4	24.2
192	137	Burtonwood Brew	174½		3.9	16.9
191	137	Eldridge P 'A'	186		3.1	
433	335	Fuller Sm 'A'	416	-2	2.6	17.8
580	402	Greenalls Grp	580	+11	3.1	
658	468	Greene King	625		2.9	16.6
299	240	Hardy Hanson	299	+3	4.3	
160	150	Heavitree	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt J	3105		2.2	16.6
347	219	Mansfield	314		2.1	15.8
321	266	Merston Thmpt	307		3.0	14.5
543	391½	Morland	535		2.8	
8¼	6	Panmouth	6¼		4.4	10.0
703	307	Regent Inns	658		1.3	25.9
2387½	1287½	SA Breweries	2350	-37½	1.5	31.9
640	482	Scot & New	611	+5	3.9	16.3
337	230	Scot & New P/P	330			
218	173	Tom Cobleigh	211	+1	1.6	34.3
309	211	Vaux Group	270		4.7	14.1
640	449	Wetherspoon JD	637		1.6	25.9
679	521	Whitbread	670	+6	3.8	16.5
587	483	Wolvrhmptn D	579	-8	3.3	
310	188	Yates Bros	303		1.3	26.8
475	425	Young 'A'	436		4.3	17.7

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	125	Abbey	140		4.7	9.1
223	143	Allen	222	+1	3.4	10.5
101	54½	Amec	91		4.1	19.2
275	133	Andrews Sykes	255			
195	137¼	Ashtead	173		1.8	17.1
105	30	Avonside	32		12.9	5.1
38	23	Bailey (Ben) Con	25		5.2	6.1
41¼	30¼	Barcom	35		1.1	
246	158	Bassett Dws	246		3.8	15.3
176	122	Bovis Homes	176		4.2	12.5
266	180	Bellway	251	-1	3.8	12.1
37	15	Bellwinch	18		1.4	9.7
493	315	Berkeley Gp	493	+5	2.3	15.3
185	160	Bett Bros	172		3.9	6.2
245	185	Boot (Henry)	188	-2	4.8	8.8
124	81	Brandon Hirst	82	-1	3.1	16.4
40	17	Britannia Gp	23		8.7	4.5
180	36	Br Bldg & Eng	36	-4	27.8	5.0
134	93	Bryant	111½	+1½	5.7	10.1
121	82	CALA	88		4.5	8.5
38	16	Campbell & Arm	17			13.5
64	34	Clarke T	42		12.1	15.1
242½	67	Costain	73			
110	53	Countryside	58		6.2	
81	43	Crest Nicholson	55½		4.5	7.8
98	70	Cussins	78		6.1	6.8
203	165	Ewe Group	168		6.7	9.0
29	13	Galliford	18		6.9	36.6
863	738	Gleeson (MJ)	738		2.5	14.0
86	60	Green (Ernst)	60		10.6	26.1
273	178	Havelock Euro	270	-1	1.5	22.7
158	115	Hewden-Stuart	134½	+½	2.6	14.3
89	73	Higgs & Hill	83		3.8	70.5
22	14	Hinsted Hldgs	15		6.7	17.5
29½	8¼	Jarvis	23½			
148	98	Keller	143	+1	3.4	13.9
268	185	Laing (J)	258	+4	4.2	33.1
106	82	Laing 6¾% Cv Pf	104½		7.7	
61	12	Lovell (YJ)	15			
210	178	Maunders (J)	188		3.8	10.0
181	104	McAlpine (A)	148		5.1	16.9
70	46	McCarthy & St	66		3.8	9.2
83	51	Morgan Sindall	82		1.3	
123	116	Morrison Cons	122		4.4	11.9
106	53	Mowlem (J)	59		4.2	29.4
216	162	Persimmon	203	+4	5.8	14.1
114½	76¾	Pochins	108	+6	1.9	13.2
126	94	Prowting	111		4.3	14.8
53	13	Rano Ind	17		3.7	
53	45	Secure Retire	49	+1	2.8	9.3
134	93	Redrow	134		2.9	12.4
328	318	Steel Hidgs	319		2.7	11.7
112½	71	Stence	73		6.8	11.2
368	259	Spandex	353		1.0	22.5
176	142	Tay Homes	149		5.9	10.2
130	99	Taylor Woodrw	118	-1	2.4	22.5
568	415	Tilbury Dougls	445	+5	8.9	15.2
59½	28	Torex Hire	32		5.1	13.7
23	6	Trencherwood	10			4.1
20	7½	Try Group	10½		6.0	14.7
109	71	Vibroplant	76	+3	6.7	5.7
116	93	Wainhomes	100		5.8	9.3
60	37	Ward Hldgs	51		3.7	11.4
190	123	Westbury	180	+1	4.3	13.3
5½	2¾	Wiggins	4½			28.2
174	124	Wilson (C)	167	+7	3.4	12.4
372	308	Wilson Bowdn	355	+3	3.5	13.0
144	97	Wimpey G	144	+2	4.8	21.0

BUILDING MATERIALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
14	7¼	Allingham	12			
445	311¼	Alumasc	400		2.2	17.3
342	267½	BPB Ind	298	+2	3.3	13.8
133	94	Baggeridge Bk	114		3.5	
36	22¼	Barlop	32		7.8	15.6
76	36	Blockleys	47		1.1	
341	255	Blue Circle	340	+4	4.3	15.5
89	72	Breedon PLC	77		7.8	10.7
136	106	Br Dredging	102	-1	6.5	14.0
490	338	CRH	482	+1	2.2	18.1
46	38	Caseland Bly	38		3.1	
210	140	Cape	140		8.8	10.9
273	173	Caradon	197	+2	6.0	10.2
134½	99½	Caradon pf	107½		8.4	
55	18	Chelfield Gp	19	+1	13.2	
198	105	Dyson (J&J)	178		2.8	14.7
90	63	Dyson 'A'	82		6.1	6.8
98¼	56¼	Eclipse Blinds	87			
315	220	Erith	237		4.7	12.8
133	73	Flare	123	+2		
95	85	Gibbs & Dandy	91½		4.4	
205	160	Graham Gp	189		3.4	17.4
381	312	Halstead (J)	381		2.7	17.2
325	254	Hepworth	312	+7	5.9	14.4
85	38	Hewetson	39		8.2	8.1
268	202½	Heywd Wm	232½	+½	7.4	12.0
85	63	Ibstock	69½	+3	3.1	11.4
398	262	Jarvis	335		3.9	7.8
108	84	Lilleshall	88		6.9	10.5
139¼	105	Marley	112	-1	5.2	9.8
168	123	Marshalls	145	+2	4.4	10.3
393	289	Meyer Intl	387	-1	3.7	14.6
178	113	Newman Tonks	118		7.2	10.7
108	71	Nerons	87			
20	12	Phoenix Timber	17			16.2
207	136¾	Pilkington	198	-3	3.0	15.7
177	122	Polypipe	173	+1	1.9	16.2
1119	848¾	RMC Gp	895		2.7	13.6
18	3	Raeud	5			
478	322	Redland	385	-6	5.4	11.8
122	88	Rockel	95		5.7	8.9
176½	126	Rubeold	143		5.3	11.6
126	100	Rugby Group	110	+1	4.1	14.2
113	88	Russell (A)	113		2.9	15.5
262	197	SIG	200	-3	3.9	11.1
19	11	SNP	11½			
180	156	Sharpe & Fisher	157		4.0	12.5
43	16	Spring Ram	28	+1	2.4	
130	80	Tarmac	106½		6.5	16.1
160	100	Tleo	103		5.9	
355	265	Travis Perkins	355	+5	3.2	14.9
36	24	Tudor	30		3.1	17.8
68	53	Waterhouse	58			
136	83	Wickes	126	+3	1.9	23.5
455	324	Wolseley	445		2.8	15.0

BUSINESS SERVICES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2	0½	Angle Utd	0½			
110	57	App Holo	98			
7¼	5¾	Bailey (CH)	6½			
59	36	Black Arrow	39		9.9	6.8
90	60	Br Bloodstock	86	+1		29.0
6	3	Card Gp	3¼			
9¼	4¼	Chemex	6¼	-½	2.9	
161	135	Cosalt	145	-6	7.5	
277	215	Filofax	258		1.4	17.7
43	24	Hadleigh	32			28.1
436	248	Hazlock	431		2.6	16.5
168	93	Leigh	101		8.2	11.9
231	102	Nobo Gp	134		5.8	8.8
265	149	Photo-Me	153		4.1	13.4
68	53	Paul & Geo	56		6.0	6.1
11	0¼	Rodime	1¼			
104	73	Shanks & McEwan	89		4.8	18.4
213	160	Sinclair (Wm)	181		5.2	12.3
480	148¾	Superscope VR	429	+14		
414	241	Waste Mgt Intl	335	+1		12.7
148	73	Waste Recyg	128		1.2	28.0

CHEMICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
198	146	Albright & Wil	154		4.9	16.3
137	109	Allied Colloids	125		2.4	20.5
245	195	Amber Intl	208	-2	3.4	13.6
73	47	Amberley Gp	69	+1	2.4	18.8
£147½	£120¾	BASF DM	£145	+25	3.1	
923½	689	BOC	898	+6	3.8	17.3
303	235	BTP	262	-3	5.2	15.2
£172¼	£141¼	Bayer DM50	£171¼	+184¾	3.4	
165	103	Blagden	143			
119	67	Brent Chems	69		5.8	18.9
278	200	Br Vita	211		4.7	13.4
239	184	Canning (W)	212		4.6	13.6
489¼	352	Courtaulds	407	+3	4.8	18.6
397½	310	Croda	333		3.4	14.5
233	135	Doeflex	208		9.5	13.5
282	234	Ellis & Everard	248		4.3	14.3
107	58	Euro Colour	83		2.9	20.2
224	114	Gibbon	184	+2	4.2	15.2
145	76	Hickson	77		6.7	7.3
£175½	£122½	Hoechst	£174¾	+137½	2.9	
223½	163	Holliday Chem	164		3.8	11.7
849¼	680	ICI	748	-2	4.8	14.3
360	188¼	Inspec	330		1.8	23.0
158	97½	Kalon	111		5.2	12.6
852	599	Laporte	658	+9	4.4	13.5
85	65	MTM	78		2.6	14.0
385	275	Manders	275	-8	5.1	12.4
66	30	Metrotect	37		5.1	13.8
516	362¾	Montedison	427½	-1¾	4.7	19.2
425	290	Porvair	361	+1	1.5	25.7
258	188	Scapa	220		3.5	15.7
34	16	Suttcliffe Speakmn	27		2.2	33.2
1079½	895¾	Tioxide Chem	1019½	-28½	0.9	13.9
256	198	Wellington Hldg	248		3.4	19.0
1058	728	Wolstenholme R	983		2.6	16.7
374	255	Yorks Chem	255		4.2	12.5
349	255	Yule Catto	305		3.0	16.1

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
107½	98¾	ABI Less	93		5.8	9.5
595	440	Adam & Harvey	443	+3	5.5	5.8
21	13	Alexanders	16		5.5	26.3
113	86	Appleyard	98	+4	7.7	10.6
4½	3½	Ass Br Eng	3½		2.1	28.5
623	518	BSG Group	520		4.7	14.9
39	31	Bench	38			
24½	15½	Beaming Power	16½			
28	18	Bogod 'A'	26		9.5	
483	345	Bunzl	431		3.4	9.2
21	10½	Bridgend Gp	17		3.9	16.6
96	78	Brit Fittings	81		1.5	
270	215	Caffyns	245		4.9	12.3
80	54	Central Mtr	75		3.9	16.9
61	35	Cook (DCH)	55	-1	4.6	20.4
320½	220	Cowie	288	-2	3.9	8.1
155	125	Dag Motors	126		4.1	12.4
598	503	Dennams El	503		7.1	10.4
501	375½	Diploma	391		1.9	11.1
370	236	Electrocomp	350	+1	4.5	
266	153	Entds Elec	261		2.1	23.8
235	64	Eurodollar	89	-1	2.0	18.1
120	87	European Mtr	95		14.1	4.2
449	280	Evans Halshaw	386		6.8	8.2
733	512	Farnell Elect	710	+5	6.8	8.9
72	48	Fife Indmar	66		1.7	20.6
24½	15	Gardiner	17		6.2	10.8
37	16	Glenchewton	34½		6.0	7.5
108	61	Gowrings	86		1.1	
218	148	Harris (Philip)	217		3.3	14.3
230	142	Headlam	220	+3	4.2	13.8
554	258	Henlys	497		2.4	19.3
137	81	Holders Tech	133		2.5	18.5
163	88	ISA Intl	153		5.6	25.3
430	200	Inchcape	246	-1	1.3	16.7
66	53	Jacks (Wm)	60		7.6	22.3
182	142	Kwik-Fit	162		1.6	11.4
358¼	264½	Lex Service	305		3.4	14.3
195	146	Lookers	149		5.9	16.2
32	9	Malaya Gp	11½		6.4	8.2
9¼	5	Middlesex	8¼		5.2	15.5
71	36	Midshires	40	+1	0.7	20.1
534	390	Norbain	485			5.6
268	78	Normanton	255	-1	1.9	16.7
158	135	PCT	137		0.9	20.4
298	225	Pentagon	272		7.0	9.8
166	123	Perry Gp	146		3.9	14.2
146	126	Quicks Group	135		6.5	11.0
198	160	REA	185		5.3	11.5
3¼	2½	Reeco	2½		2.7	22.0
73	48	Ronson	56		2.8	11.4
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3			
63½	37½	SEP Intl	54½		3.7	
17½	8½	Saltire	13			6.8
74½	38	TLS	70		3.3	11.9
266	226	Time Products	248		4.7	14.5
273	151	Vardy (Reg)	273		2.6	17.3
325	240	Wholesale Ftgs	325		4.5	20.3
80	54½	Wilshaw	55½		1.8	13.2
90	56½	Wyko	75		2.1	74.6
118	68	Young (H)	109		4.5	

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
175	116	Adwest	121	+2	8.1	9.7
353	235	Antofagasta	293		1.9	13.8
940	728¾	Broken Hill	916	-10	2.6	21.2
348	291	BTR	320	+2½	5.4	13.9
582	405	BAT	578	+8	4.9	13.1
270½	144	Bensford Indt	194	+5	1.9	
131	71	Bibby (J)	115		6.2	9.3
51½	40½	Brierley Inv	50¼		8.6	2.8
948	743	Charter	840	+4	3.7	13.6
314	185	Cookson	303	+3	3.0	19.3
153	100	Grampian Hdg	130	-3	5.6	14.7
243¼	180¾	Hanson	192½	+1½	7.8	10.5
162½	135	Hanson Cstlid	155	+3	7.3	16.5
389½	200¾	Hutch Whamp	387½	-1½	2.0	20.9
584¼	341¼	Jardine Math	447	+10	3.6	9.0
37	26	Jourdan (T)	27		5.8	7.3
182	134	Lonrho	179	+½	3.1	24.7
173	113	McLeod Russell	167		4.8	
44	34	Parker Chadfm	40			13.6
601	430	Powell Duffryn	444		7.0	18.2
152	123	Ropner	144	-1	7.2	9.9
178	130	Sime Darby	164	-6	2.8	15.3
230	164	Steetley	186		5.4	13.4
207	149	Suter	165½		7.3	11.1
286	227	TT Group	268½	-½	2.7	15.1
289	214	Tomkins	277	+4	3.9	15.4
76	18½	Trafalgar H	24	+1		
295	295	Unidare	295		7.7	
401	315	Wardle Storeys	358		6.0	19.1
300	236	Wassall	256	+2	2.2	14.5
200	162	Wallercroft	197	+5	2.9	14.6
350	298½	Williams Hldg	327	+5	5.3	15.2

ELECTRICITY

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
754¼	437½	East Midlands▼	680	-2½	5.4	9.2
978	535	Eastern Grp	973		3.6	13.0
742½	411	London Elect▼	588	+½	6.6	7.8
789¾	441¼	Midlands Elec	769	+16	6.1	9.6
214¼	188	National Grid	198½	+½	7.0	9.0
561	421½	National Power	449	-2	4.8	9.2
171	132	Natl Power P/P	153	-4	4.5	9.4
703¼	442	Northern Elec▼	634		6.9	6.3
447	313	Nthn Ireland	435	-3	4.2	9.5
1202	611	Norweb	1020		3.5	10.7
608	457½	PowerGen	532	-2	4.0	9.8
259	178½	PowerGen (P/P)	216	-2	3.9	11.7
379	303	Hydro-Elect	356	+1	5.1	9.7
392½	308	Scottish Power	366	+2	4.9	10.6
528	344¼	Seeboard	528		3.4	11.5
945	501½	Sth Wales	943	-2	4.5	8.8
977	548	Southern Elec	916	+2	4.5	11.7
741½	485	Yorkshire Elec	682	+9	6.5	7.3

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
577	292	Acal	554		1.7	20.1
348	77½	Acorn Comp	239	-1		
855	825	Admiral	828		1.3	21.7
290	186	Alba	280		2.4	18.1
396¼	127¼	Amstrad	219½	+2½	1.4	
41	30	Arlen	35		2.1	12.1
131	77	Astec	114½		1.4	17.8
911	116	Azlan	507	+2	0.8	22.6
364	238	BICC	276	+1	5.7	16.2
250	215	Bowles Hmlr	219	+1	5.8	11.7
523	423	Bick	458	+1	3.6	
435	284	Bowthorpe	415		2.8	18.9
27	17½	Bulgin (AF) 'A'	23½		2.1	9.4
201	117	CML Micro	133		5.7	13.9
39	17	Channel Hldgs	27		6.1	7.6
28½	19	Chloride	23½		1.8	30.0
80	61	Claybithe	72	-1	6.5	12.0
170	37	Cray Elect	41½	+3½	4.5	
648	462	Critchley	644		1.9	22.0
600	330	Dalla Ek Syst	546	+3	0.5	28.4
539	373	Delta	395	+1	5.0	13.6
565	365	Domino	403		3.1	13.2
72	61	Dowding Mills	64		5.4	17.0
2575	1465	Druck	2575		0.6	33.8
3340¾	2490¾	Electrolux 'B'	2671½	-12½	4.5	4.2
34½	26	Emess	31½		0.4	
1659¾	850	Ericsson 'B'	1262½	-53¾	3.4	9.8
104	64	Eurocopy	72		4.1	
575	370	Eurotherm	541	-2	1.7	
542	375	Fabey Group	531		1.2	22.3
514	165	Filtronic Com	475	+25	0.2	76.0
690	195	Forward Gp	620	-5	1.4	26.6
100	40	Forward Tech	90		3.5	12.6
392½	269	GEC	351	+8	4.1	16.4
171	122	Graseby	127		6.5	11.6
141	75	Ind Control	109		4.1	21.6
30	14	Intelek	25½		3.7	32.4
320	220	Kenwood App	230	+1	5.5	10.1
107	50	Kode	97			
49	28	LPA Ind	34		6.2	24.2
330	266	MTL Inst	280		2.1	15.6
298	240	Memec	249	+1	2.6	16.4
53¾	30½	Microvitec	49		2.0	16.5
446	231	Mitel	410	-3		
464	315	Oxford Inst	405	+2	1.8	16.0
183	51	Pacer Systems	173		2.4	23.1
112	73	Penkit	89		4.3	16.0
3321½	1909¾	Philips Lamp nv	2359¾	-19¾	2.1	9.4
349	202	Plico	206		3.0	13.9
327	192	Plico 'A' Vtg	196		3.2	12.2
153	116	Plasmac	141		4.0	11.3
153	96	Pressac	146		3.0	
54	23	Prestwick	38½			15.3
913	243	Psion	783	-2	0.6	33.1
31	15	Quadrant Grp	17		1.8	47.5
295	217	Racal Elect	283		2.4	21.7
83	44	Radamec	79		3.5	17.5
449	301	Renishaw	385½		0.6	21.7
286	202½	Roxboro	268		2.5	13.2
20½	5	Scantronic	9			
59	38	Silvermines	58	+1	2.3	15.7
67	32	Soundtracs	32		9.8	9.2
245	163	Stones	245	+1	2.3	17.1
9½	5	TDS Circuits	6½			
3488¾	2468¾	TDK	3316¾	+106¼	0.9	
376	37	Tadpole Tech	77	+7		
180	57	Telemetrix	125		1.2	17.8
102	63	TGI	83		3.8	11.1
1048	342	Telspec	808	+1	0.6	45.2
289	126	Thorpe FW	235	-3	2.1	14.3
184	130	TLG	162		1.9	17.5
38	16	Total Systems	21			21.8
320	227	Tunstall	307		1.8	14.0
592	350	Unitech	487	-8	1.9	17.9
13½	8	Verity	12½		1.0	19.9
465	368	Volex	438	+2	5.6	15.4
78	16	Wolsdome	18	-3		2.2
187	122	Wiltmane	159		3.6	

ENGINEERING

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
347	167	AIM	268		1.9	
87	47½	APV	74		5.2	
248	67	ASW	87½		9.0	4.2
37	24	Aero Hamble	30			
157	42	Alvis	138		1.8	
178	133	Ash & Lacy	177	-1	4.6	12.2
848	539	Atlas Copco	845	-3	4.3	22.6
153	118	Ayrshire Metal	126		5.5	7.2
102	78	BI Group	101		5.9	12.9
187	112½	Babcock	141		2.3	
165	122	BWI	133		8.9	12.8
105	77	Baynes (Charles)	98		2.8	17.0
38¾	23	Beauford	26	+2	2.2	6.1
130	90	Bellam	95		7.0	
421	309	Bodycote	412		1.8	21.0
81	33	Booth Inds	40			
21	13½	Boxwart	17½	-½	4.5	17.0
157½	118	Bridon	119		4.3	14.9
835	418¾	Br Aerospace	792	+7	1.7	29.6
181	144	Br Steel	163½	+6½	6.5	4.7
14½	10½	Brooke Tool	11¼		1.1	27.2
48	32½	Bronx	35		1.8	13.7
190	108	Bulloch	100	-1	7.6	9.7
123	71	Bromford	94	+1	4.1	13.6
334	236	Carclo Eng	314	-1	4.1	16.8
194	150	Castings	174	-2	2.6	14.1
168	145	Chamberlin Hill	158		5.7	9.4
385	294	Cherning	380		3.7	
225	130	Clyde Blowers	198		3.8	44.2
470	302	Cobham	464		2.3	28.2
725	505	Cohen (A)	645		1.2	60.0
203	146	Concentric	171	+2	4.8	12.0
243	210	Cook (Wm)	221		4.7	9.1
249	185½	David Brown	197		4.5	12.9
133	69	Dobson Park	130		5.0	26.8
417	330	EIS	398		4.5	13.0
115	91	Elliott (B)	107		3.2	11.4
94	71	Expamet	90		2.3	17.0
184	130¾	FKI	161	+1	3.7	15.3
157	119¾	Fennert	126		3.6	12.3
28	1½	Ferrum	1½			
40	22	Firth Hldgs	37½	-½		21.9
138	77	GEI Intl	120		3.6	11.8
189	117	Garton Eng	177		4.1	9.6
378	282	Glynwed	320½	+2½	4.9	12.9
13¾	10½	Graystone	13½	+½	4.8	9.4
89	56	Haden MacLn	82	+1½	3.4	21.5
200	133	Hadleigh	182		2.8	11.9
216	135	Hall Eng	177		4.3	
175	132½	Halma	171½	+½	1.7	22.9
57	39	Hampson Ind	45		6.2	10.3
37	19	Hay (Norman)	28			
137	105	Hill & Smith	108		6.9	13.3
59	28	Hopkinsons	31		5.2	
41	28	How Gp	35		2.7	
95	68	Howden	68		5.1	8.9
219	162	Hunting	198		6.3	18.6
348¾	265	IMI	334	+4	4.1	20.3
67	40¼	Johnson & Fth	59¾		2.1	24.7
614	499	Johnson Matthey	521		3.0	15.1
52½	29	Jones Stroud	46			
805	310	Kelsey Ind	588	+18	5.3	
280	265	Laird	288		3.6	14.2
20	11½	Locker (T) 'A'	20		2.8	15.4
45	29	ML Hldgs	40		4.1	13.1
39	19	MS Intl	36		2.1	
236	137	Mang Bronze	236		2.6	11.7
476	378	McKechnie	397		5.2	11.9
95	61	Meggitt	91	+½	5.4	24.4
126	91¼	Metalrax	114		4.1	18.3
138	98	Metoc	98		4.0	20.7
825	487	Molins	774	-1	2.8	13.5
415	293	Morgan Cruc	385	+1	4.4	16.9
316	178	Morris Ashby	270		3.2	14.1
54	32	Neepsend	53½	+½	3.7	11.3
70	41	Nobbees	50		4.2	10.2
41½	12	OMI Intl	14½		6.5	
281	233	Powerscreen	265	+6	2.7	14.3
15½	4	Prospect Inds	4½	-½	18.3	
73	60	Radiant Metal	65			
66	41	Ransomes	63			
86	61	Record	64		7.0	12.8
407	235½	Renishaw	380		2.1	23.7
291	180	Renold	234		2.8	13.2
58	36	Richard (Leics)	36		7.8	12.5
99	66	Richardson West	78		5.6	12.8
194½	148	Rolls-Royce	184½	-1½	3.4	26.5
180	158½	Rotork	168	+1	3.7	16.0
183	143	Rubicon	172		3.9	16.5
114	67	Senior Eng	92½		4.7	32.7
335	283	Servomex	334		2.7	22.6
156	49	Shield-Rvr	155		1.2	36.8
799	498	Siebe	799	+7	2.0	23.0
89	67	Simon Eng	75			
177	79	Six Hundred	156½	+½	1.8	11.2
1471½	1034¾	SKF 'B'	1243¾	+6¼	3.3	11.7
671½	423	Smiths Inds	641	+3	2.8	20.4
612	431	Spirax-Sarco	594	+2	2.5	18.7
293	227	Sterling Ind	291		3.4	14.0
483	329	TI	460	+10	3.3	21.5
102	82	Tinsley (E)	99		7.3	13.4
101	51	Transtec	88		2.0	
184	127	Triplex Lloyds	138		6.3	10.3
18	14	Utd Inds	16		2.9	12.8
15½	5	Verson	11			
283	162	Vickers	256	+1	2.6	20.6
14½	8½	Villers Grp	12			
734	506	Vitec	684	+5	1.7	17.7
968	722	Vosper Thornyt	813	+1	3.3	14.6
516	435	Wagon Ind	436		5.6	12.4
293	199	Weir	213		4.2	17.9
58½	36	Wellman	48½	+1½	4.1	10.5
503	390	Whatman	425	+5	3.4	13.6
11½	8½	Widney	9¼		1.6	

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
38	23	MAF Inds	26			
294	153	Airflow Stream	260		3.8	6.1
48½	41	Armour	42		5.9	12.0
528	440	Avon Rubber	485		4.6	
291	181	BBA	282	+2	2.2	
72½	49½	BSG	56½		7.0	12.0
13	3¼	Benson Group	6¼		2.4	
340	285	Bostrom	300		2.6	16.6
25	17	Boustead	24		5.3	
14	9	Cavendale	11¼		3.0	7.8
357	245	ERF	249		2.3	14.5
509	370	First Tech	435		2.1	16.3
830	543	GKN	779	+8	3.6	15.9
3400	2343¼	General Mtr	3325	-75	2.3	
1347¼	846	Honda Motor	1325	-17¾	0.7	
448	304	Laird	387		3.7	14.7
440	345	Lodges	425		0.3	
212	163	Lucas	176	+2	5.0	53.7
98	53	Mayflower	92½		2.3	24.1
200	150	Syltone	175	-2	3.5	16.1
197	119	T & N	162		4.6	
378	324	Trinity Hldgs	341	-3	2.7	18.6

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
372	278	AB Foods	371	-1	3.0	13.2
270	205	Acatos & Hutch	245	-1	4.7	
56	38	Albert Fisher	49		9.6	12.0
279	195	Banks (S C)	275		4.5	14.0
387	330	Barr (AG)	334		2.9	15.0
40	15	Bensons Crsp	27			
445	335	Booker	358	+1	7.9	18.2
47½	31	Borthwick	34		4.8	24.6
373	191	CPL Aromas	368		1.4	23.0
557	370	Cadbury-Schw	532		3.7	19.1
320	238	Carrs Milling	318		3.4	
101	93	Clayton	101	+2	2.7	13.4
198	145	Claremont	195		5.7	12.3
464	377	Dalgety	407	-1	6.8	12.3
67	33½	Daniels S	45		0.3	
267	208	Devro	253		3.6	16.0
106	62	Everest	93		5.4	8.4
20½	3¼	Farmgold	15½			
78	47	Finlay (James)	64		6.2	25.5
17½	10	Global	16½		4.0	11.4
565	400	Greencore	561		2.8	
133	91	Hazlewood Fds	97		8.6	9.0
201	150	Hillsdown	166		6.9	11.1
31	22¼	Hobson	31	+½	3.2	36.6
85	55	JLI Group	62		10.3	10.3
353	305	Linton Park	311		6.0	7.6
133	92	Matthews (B)	94	-2	4.3	8.9
243	211	Nichols (JN)	233		3.3	15.0
211	166	Nthn Foods	170	-4	6.5	
14	8½	Notrstm Fn	10¼			8.0
230	80	Pascoe's	110			
52¼	9	Pengkalen (UK)	9½			
83	60	Perkins Food	69		8.1	9.2
140	73	SeaPerfect	80			
149	84	Sentry Farm	149		2.9	11.9
78	32	Sims Food	33		11.4	11.0
476	412	Tate & Lyle	458	+6	4.3	9.8
408	204	Treaty	343		1.9	15.5
440	333	Unigate	413		5.6	14.2
1343	1124	Unilever	1319	+11	2.6	15.9
9203¼	7200	Unilever (NV)	8984¾	-43¾	2.8	13.4
368	250	Utd Biscuits	258	+1	6.4	16.3
44	28	WT Foods	29		11.0	16.5
110	80	Yorkshire Food	80		5.6	9.1

HEALTHCARE

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1070	770	Amersham	863	+5	2.5	18.5
102	43	Anagen	74			
207	165	Assoc Nursg	168	-2	2.3	12.9
359	238	Bespak	315		4.0	21.8
510	162	Biocompa Intl	473	-2		
81	60	Care UK	79	+2	1.2	
150	71	Celsis	130			
265	198	Community H	250		4.4	12.8
37	28	CrestaCare	28		9.7	9.7
113	15	Enviromed	26		6.7	3.3
88	54	Ferraris Group	73	-4	4.8	
166	110	Goldsborough	134		3.8	
11½	8¾	Greenacre	11½		4.1	14.0
833	428	Huntleigh Tec	766		1.1	28.4
77	35½	Intercare Gp	62	-1	7.6	
310	236	Isotron	304		2.2	17.5
149	85	Life Sciences	88	+1	6.2	9.1
141	85	Lon Intl	128	+1½	1.5	
80	41	Medor-BNA	79		5.0	17.7
60	8	Premier Health	13			0.9
290	230	Quality Care	280		2.1	13.9
248	118	Scholl	194		4.3	
405	317½	Seton Health	383		2.4	19.1
190	32	Shield Diag	158	-15		
205	152	Smith & Neph	188	-1	3.6	21.7
27	7	Spectrabyes	17			0.6
228	183	Takare	183	-1	1.6	12.6
285	234	UniChem	241	-5	3.8	13.6
356	283	West Hlthcare	328		2.1	14.6

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
228	173	Airsprung	190	+1	3.6	10.4
162	88	BLP Group	99	+1	3.9	8.1
47½	29	Bilston Btsm	42			22.3
108	56	Cowell P&H 'A'	97		0.8	
170	120	Creighton Nit	125		7.7	9.0
178	141	Denby Group	177		3.5	
145	127	Gestell	138		3.8	10.7
463	343	WP Intl	460		2.6	13.0
5	2	Lookbed	2½			
215	188	McBride	196		4.3	19.8
268	157¼	Mayborn▲	256		3.2	14.4
485	365	Osborne & Little	385		3.5	9.9
465	403	Patterson Zch	441	-1	4.3	13.7
420	365	Patterson Zch 'A'	370		5.1	11.5
714	584	Reckitt Colman	711	+3	4.1	16.5
291	226	Relyon	289		3.3	17.2
285	237	Royal Doulton	247		3.9	12.3
216	148	Silentnight	178		5.6	12.0
32½	20	Stoddard	20½		7.5	30.8
210	159	Tootal	168		8.6	
130	75	Victoria Carpet	75		3.3	
108	75	Walker Greenbk	82	+1	5.5	15.7
66	51	Wilmot Wdged	62		1.6	20.8
225	155	Wood (Arthur)	175		3.0	13.8

INSURANCE

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1675	1187¼	Alex & Alex	1237¼	-37¼	5.2	
2481¼	1787¼	Arn Gen	2237½	-6¼	3.6	
98	76	Angerstein	89		4.3	28.3
63	51	Archer	52	-3	2.4	
99	44	Bradstock	71	+1	10.7	
749	385	Britannic	749	+2	2.4	
98	84	CLM Insce	94	-1	2.8	
654	473	Coml Union	630	-3	5.4	10.0
1660	1085	Dom & Gen	1545		2.2	15.8
194	158¾	FBD	186		4.0	7.8
164	126	Fenchurch Grp	140	-1	7.9	
107	82	Finsbury Under	105½	-½	2.0	52.8
787	499	Gen Accident	660	-1	5.7	8.6
292	160¼	GRE	271	-1	3.9	5.3
97	79	HCG Lloyds	90¼		4.4	30.0
249	145	Heath C E	149	-1	11.7	9.3
296¾	202¾	Hibernian E	278		3.8	29.2
111	88	Hiscox Select	104	-1	2.6	41.0
364½	256	Independent	364½	+4½	3.5	8.0
260	178	Irish Life	249	-1	5.4	21.9
138	102½	JIB Group	102½	-1½	9.1	12.1
102	97	Kiln Capital	99		5.1	
722	414	Legal & Gen	671	+3	4.2	19.8
2025	1296¾	Liberty Life	1987½	-18¾	6.8	6.1
182	135½	Lloyd Thomp	164		6.9	8.9
486	317	Lloyds Abbey	453	-6	5.5	13.9
425	303	Londn & Man	402		3.5	16.4
106	92	London Ins Mkt	100	-½	3.6	28.8
185	126	Lowndes Lmbt	133	-4	7.9	7.5
5850	4787¾	Marsh McLn	5737½	-68¾	3.6	
101	83	Masthead	99		3.2	26.4
181	138	Nelson Hurst	140½	+1½	8.1	8.2
89	65	New London Cap	83		5.6	28.9
65	34	Ockham	55	+1	6.8	
110	90	Oriel	105		6.2	11.9
82	66	Premium Trust	81½	+½	4.6	18.6
122	95	Premium Undr	122			
440	290	Prudential	416½	-2½	4.4	17.7
36	13	PWS	20		2.2	
473	241	Refuge	442	+1	3.6	30.7
426	251	Royal	384	+2	4.2	7.5
189	104	Sedgwick	129	-1	6.8	10.0
122	33	Steel Burrill	35		26.8	3.5
414	261	Sun Alliance	370		5.5	10.5
94	66	Syndicate Cap	93		3.7	26.8
81	61	Trade Indemnity	73		1.9	32.5
717	458	Utd Friendly	701		3.8	15.1
172	118	Willis Corroon	143	-1	5.8	79.9
24	12	Windsor	15		4.3	

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
447	333	3i	422	+2	2.2	
81	62	Abtrust Emerg	74	-½	0.7	
84	73	Abtrust High Inc	77½	+½	10.0	
230	182	Abtrust N Dawn	212½		0.7	
2065	1682	Alliance	2058	+11	3.1	
297	239	American Trust	287		2.4	
487	351	Anglo & O'seas	487	+7	1.7	
151	106	Baillie Gifford SN	132½	-½		
215	172	Bankers	213	+3	2.5	
46½	28¾	Baring Em Eu	37¼	-½		
364	300	Baring Tribun	363		2.3	
98	84½	Br Assets	92½	+½	6.2	
97½	83	Br Empire Sec	94½		1.3	
37½	25	Br Empire Wts	34			
233	184	Br Invs	226	+1	1.9	
101	66	Brazilian	67½	+1		
265½	217	Brunner	262½	+1½	2.7	
136	115	BZW Convt	131½		7.4	
508	318	Candover	500	-2	3.1	
53	34¼	Central Euro Gwth	39¼		1.4	
186	144	Charter & Eastern	172		2.6	
188	161	Contl Assets	178½	-½	2.1	
80	75	Dartz Inv Inc	75		13.3	
345	278	Derby Cap	338			
166	148	Derby Inc	158		14.4	
736	617	Dunedin Inc G	698½	+1½	4.8	
91	73	Dunedin Japan	87½	+1½		
333	296	Dunedin Smllr	315½		3.6	
42	18	Dunedin Wts	27½	+1		
801	679	Dunedin Whrlwd	788	+6	1.5	
109½	82¾	Edin Dragon	102¾			
43½	21½	Edinburgh Inca	25			
339	281	Edinburgh	326	+2	3.7	
167	127	EFM Japan	164½			
376	307	Electra Inv	363	-2	2.6	
220½	180	Electric Gen	220½	+1½	2.0	
145	108	English Scot	144			
350	273	European Assel	332		1.9	
199	147½	Fidelity Euro Val	193		0.2	
83	62¾	Fidelity Jap Val	75½	+½	0.2	
109	81	Fidelity Spec Val	105		0.6	
175	149	Finsbury 'A'	171½		3.5	
80	62	First Spanish	78	+1	0.4	
338	267	Fleming Amer	288		0.7	
74	51½	Fleming Chinese	54	+½	1.2	
39	20	Fleming Ch Wts	26½	-½		
254	198	Fleming Claver	250		2.9	
357	288¾	Fleming Contl	343		1.2	
158	125	Fleming Em Mkts	144	+½		
258	199	Fleming Enter	249		2.6	
360	278½	Fleming F East	352	+3½	0.6	
402	337	Fleming Fledg	397		0.9	
105	90	Fleming Hi Inc	99	+½	5.8	
87	53	Fleming Indian	57½	+1	2.6	
46	24	Fleming In Wts	29½			
40	29	Fleming Intl	39		11.9	
268	203	Fleming Japan	263	+1		
303	252½	Fleming Mercl	285½	-½	3.1	
97	72½	Fleming Nat Res	95	+1		
335	269	Fleming Overs	334½	+½	1.7	
164	124	Foreign & Col	161		1.5	
110	91	For & Col Inc Gwth	107		3.8	
170½	93	Fgn Emg Mkts	104½	+1		
87	67½	Fgn Enterprise	86	+½	1.2	
263	204¾	Fgn Eurotst	257	+1	0.6	
135	115	Fgn German	125		0.5	
186	137¼	Fgn Pacific	185½	+1½	0.9	
139	120	Fgn PEP	135		3.8	
176	153	Fgn Smaller	171½	-½	1.6	
132	90	Fgn US Smllr	130½	+½		
24	17½	Fulcrum Cap	18			
46	33	Fulcrum Inc	34			
164	141	Fulcrum Zero	164	+½		
220	188	Gartmore Brit	219		4.2	
213	174	Gartmore Eur	212		2.4	
170	127	Gartmore Emrg	170	+1	0.9	
101	84	Gartmore Shrdt	88		13.5	
249	207	G'more Smlr Cost	244		2.9	
100	84	Geared Inc Inv	87		11.9	
183	138	Genl Cons Cap	171	-1		
113	104	Genl Inct	105		11.1	
105	86	German Inv	99		0.3	
246	192	Gov Asn Sm Cos	214		0.2	
119½	88	Gov Emg Mks	105	+1	0.4	
197	135	Govett Am Smlr	191	+1		
88	71	Gov Glob Smlr	84			
86	70	Govett High Incl	74		9.5	
381	322	Govett Oriental	379½	+3½	0.4	
294	223	Govett Strategic	289	+1	2.9	
443	381	Greenfriar	437		2.0	
19	6	Gresham House	6			
95	90	Gson Fl Ex Inc	93			
252	191	GT Japan	248½	-½	0.6	
136	113	H Govett Smll	128		2.0	
128	113	Hand High	119	+1	6.2	
364	258	Hand Smllst	364	+1	0.5	
134	80	Herald	127		0.5	
106	78	High Income Tr	78		10.3	
107	67¼	HTR Jap Smaller	94¾	+1½		
17	12	I&S Eril	15			
119	93	I&S UK Smllr	114		3.1	
146	118	Inv Cap	137		4.8	
121	78	Inv Biotech	101		1.2	
57	20	Inv Wts	34			
99	74	INVESCO Asia	96	+½		
72	51	INVESCO Eurpt	61		17.2	
139	88	INVESCO Eng Intl	138		0.7	
148	122	INVESCO Korea	135			
61	49	INVESCO Tokyo	58	+½		
99	92	J Fry 2nd Ut	89		9.4	
94	79	J Fry Euro U	79½	-1½	7.0	
240	174	JF Fledg Jap	238	+1½		
128	99	Jupiter Intl Gm	127		3.3	
250	194	Klnwt Chrt	249½	+1	2.7	
121	96½	Klnwt E Mkt	114	+1½		
133	110	Klnwt End	133			
84½	73	Klnwt Euro Pvt	78½	-1½	3.5	
27½	21	Klnwt Euro Wts	22¼			
91	74	Klnwt H Inct	78		13.8	
273	213	Klnwt O'seas	272½	+1½	1.6	
140	111	Klnwt Smlr	136		2.2	
805¼	427¼	Korea-Euro	544½	-7½	0.1	
125½	71	Latin American	86¼	-1¼		
995	718	Law Debenture	942	-1	2.8	
102	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	100			
29½	26	Lloyds Sm Div	26½		17.5	
130	102	Lloyds Sm Pkg	127		3.6	
178	160	Lon St Lawrence	173		4.6	
355	283	Lowland	341½	+1½	3.7	
1387½	1125	Lydenburg	1225		1.8	
665	503	M&G 2nd Dual Cp	628			
125	110	M&G 2nd Dual In	114			
3073	2533	M&G Dual Cap	3025			
313	210	M&G Dual Inc	228			
68½	60	M&G Inc Geared	65½		9.7	
33	26¼	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	32			
37½	31½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inct	34		18.8	
131	116	M&G Inc Package	131	+½	4.9	
67	54¼	M&G Inc Zero Div	66¼	+		
30½	22½	M&G Rec Cap	27			
61½	47	M&G Rec Geared	47		10.5	
30	24½	M&G Rec Inc	25½		19.9	
142	127	M&G Rec Packge	138		3.6	
93	73	M&G Rec Zero Div	92	+½		
122	100	M Currie Euro	114	+1	0.4	
102	93½	M Currie Japan	100½	+1½		
152	119	M Currie Pac	143	+2	0.1	
222	182	Majedie	222		3.2	
57	42	Meadsin	43	+1		
268	241	Merchants	264½	+1	5.1	
92½	78½	Mercury Euro Pvl	91½	+½	1.9	
32	23¼	Mercury Eur Wt	29½			
98	78	Mercury World	92	+1½	0.9	
31	14	Mercury Wld Wts	16½	+1		
577	482	Monks Inv Tst	571	+2	2.0	
164	125	Morg Gren Inct	160	+1	3.9	
63	40¼	Morg Wts	61	+2		
86	48	Morg Lat Amer	58¼	-½		
49	20	Morg Wts	21½			
130	104	Murray Ent▼	113		2.6	
34	18¼	Murray Ent Wts	20	+1		
92	72¼	Murray Emg Eco	82			1.4
40	18	Murray Em Ec Wt	22	+½		
65	54	Murray Euro	55½		0.8	
17½	6	Murray Eu Wts	6½			
379	308	Murray Income	377	+½	4.0	
382	296	Murray Intl	380½	+1½	4.1	
183	162¾	Murray S/C DP	182½			
151	126	Murray S/C Cap	142			
81	72	Murray S/C Inc	72		19.8	
3250	2900	Murray S/C Ue	3025		0.5	
460	376	Murray Small	436		1.3	
377	308	Murray Vent	360		4.2	
19	11	Newmarket	15			
61	53	Nthmy Inc	59		10.2	
79	61	Nthrop Cap	65			
381	316	O'seas Inv Tst	381	+4½	1.1	
199	156	O'seas Wts	183	+4		
141	90¾	Pacific Assets	133	+1	0.3	
95	73½	Perpetual Jap	89	+1		
288	216	Perpl Uk Sm Co	287		1.0	
£112½	8425	Personal Assets	£112		2.2	
125	104	Pilot Inv	104		3.3	
113½	87¾	Protdic Inc	112½		4.0	
212	164	RIT Cap Ptnr	210	+1	0.9	
36	26½	River Merc Am Cap	35			
105	87	River Merc Am Inct	103	-2	9.5	
11	6½	River Merc Am Wts	9½	-		
134	114	River Merc Cap	129			
97	77½	River Merc Ex Inc	89		11.0	
16	7	River Merc Ex Inc Wts	7			
86	78	River Merc Grd Inct	83		11.4	
29	25½	River Merc Grd Pf	26			
112	106	River Merc Tst Inct	106		10.9	
141	112	River Merc Sm Co	136		4.0	
43	20	River Merc Sm Wt	34			
465	394	Robeco	450		3.1	
492	398	Rolinco	475		1.6	
117	103	Schrod Inc Gwth	111			
96	67	Schrod Jap Gwth	93½			
861	635¾	Schrod Korea	817	-11¼		
298	146	Schrod Medlm	284		0.3	
30	21	Schrod Split Cap	21½			
113	100	Schrod Split Inct	101		9.7	
129½	109½	Schrod Split Zero	129½	+½		
122	88	Schrod UK Gwth	118		2.5	
259½	200	Scot	259½	+2	2.8	
171	147½	Scot American	163	+1½	3.8	
305	216	Scot Asian	294	+2		
615	555	Scot Inv	598			
95	74¾	Scot Eastern	94½	+1½	2.1	
253	206	Scot Mtge	253	+1½	2.2	
97	78½	Scot Nat 1st	92½		10.4	
117	100	Scot Value	110½		2.3	
1858	1483	Second Alliance	1858	+6	3.1	
93	76	Secs Tst of Scot	91½	+1½	4.6	
150	124	Selective Assets	144		1.4	
142	123	SHIRESCOT	136		5.2	
357	289	St Andrew Inv	348		3.0	
391	318	Temple Bar	380½	+1	4.6	
114	90	Thrmtn Asian E	108		0.6	
61	16½	Throg Dual Co	56			
85	68	Throgmorton	76½		3.8	
134	98	Tpton Emg Mkt	125½	+1	0.7	
172	139½	TR City Of Lon	170	+½	3.9	
202	159	TR Euro Growth	195	-2	1.1	
175	127	TR Far East	174½	+1	4.4	
133	113	TR High Inc	126	-1	6.3	
119	80	TR Pacific	114½	+1½	0.2	
31½	26¼	TR Property	27¼		4.3	
208	171	TR Smlr Cos	203½	-½	2.4	
208	100	TR Tech Inv	185	-2½	1.9	
241	175	Tuley Trust	188		1.5	
270	217	USDC Invest	269		2.1	
117	93	Undervalued Ast	113		1.9	
130	108	Value Inc Tst	124½		4.3	
88	78	Voyageur Er Sm	79		0.8	
36	30¼	Warrant & Val	33¼			
66	56	Wigmore	50		1.7	
266½	211½	Witan	264	+2½	3.0	
99	77	Yeoman Inc	77		22.2	

LEISURE & HOTELS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
60	25	Abrdn Stk H	50			
449	308	Airtours	372	-1	4.8	10.5
44	14¾	Ald Leis▲	41	-1		15.6
153	99	Alpha Airpts	107½		5.8	10.1
61	38	Arcadian	54	+1	1.9	
185	118	BS Group	130	-3	2.9	17.8
168	111	Baldwin	153	+1	3.6	12.3
225	197	Barr & Wall	218	+1	6.3	11.5
394	202	Bluebird Toys	323		3.2	10.5
480	333	Boosey Hwks	478	+3	1.6	26.2
76	42	Brit Itn Bar	67		3.1	17.5
3½	1¼	Brent Walker	1½			
46	33	Burndene	33		7.6	
26½	5½	Cadell Plc	8½		5.9	
363	248	Chrysalis	363		1.9	
97	70½	City Centre Rest	94		2.7	18.2
476½	305	Compass Gp	476½	+6¼	2.0	
288	201	Eurocamp	207		6.4	8.7
250	118	Euro Disney	155			
181	93	Euro Leisure	170			5.1
118½	56	First Choice	87		7.1	
365	262	First Leisure	365	+4	2.5	21.7
356	224½	Forte	332	+6	2.8	37.6
175	133	Friendly Hotels	150		4.8	17.6
709	476	Granada	643	+8	2.3	15.4
218	108	Groupe Chez Ge	217		1.4	35.8
38	18	Hi-Tec Sports	32	+1	5.0	
168	86	Hornby	159		3.9	13.7
233¼	134	Jurys Hotel	232½		3.3	14.8
26½	14½	Kunick	23½		3.2	
443	264	London Clubs	418		4.2	14.9
187½	122	Ladbroke	150	-2	5.0	45.6
64	29	Magnolia	29		0.4	
213	122	Man Utd	195		2.9	8.2
97¼	58	Mandarin Orntl	78½	-1	4.5	17.2
152½	92½	My Kinda Town	135	+7	30.0	12.4
97	65	Noctech▼	90		5.6	10.9
121	70	Pelican Gp	115	+4	1.8	23.8
221	121	PizzaExpress	217		1.3	25.8
141	76	Pront Leisure	135		4.4	10.2
20	5¼	Queens Moat	12½	-½		
285	217	Ramsdens (H)	245		2.3	28.8
464	358	Rank Org	454	+6	3.8	15.4
37	26	Ryan Hotels £	34		4.7	11.9
1098	845	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1048		0.8	55.3
89½	74½	Stakis	81		2.7	
368	314	Stanley Leisure	359		2.1	16.8
346	280	Tanjong	346		0.9	23.4
1614	997	Thorn EMI	1520	-3	3.0	23.9
236	117	Tottenham Hot	230		1.6	7.5
113	63	Toy Options	94		3.5	
283	161	VCI	263	+3	2.0	18.0
156	100	Vardon	104		1.8	15.6
650	216	Wembley	302			
135	96	Zetters Gp	128		9.8	10.0

MEDIA

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
490	335	Abbott Mead	469		2.1	27.8
310	260	Adscene	268	+3	3.7	14.9
40	22	Aegis Gp	38½			15.3
7¼	1¼	Allied Radio	4			
13	8	BBB Design	11			
315	155	Barbour Index	310		3.6	38.2
10½	4½	Birkdale	8¼			
345	315	Black (A&C)	325		5.4	12.6
281	174	Blenheim Gpt	254		5.1	15.7
256	196	Border TV	248	-1	2.2	20.3
368	335	Boxbit	355		4.7	18.3
461	242	BSkyB	409	+3	0.8	46.4
150	126	CIA Gp	133		1.8	26.2
30	22	Caledonian Med	25			
533	343	Capital Radio	532		2.4	
1082	851	Carlton Comm	964	+17	1.9	
100	83	City of Lon	83	-1	7.5	10.5
116	83	Cordiant	91	+1		
1431½	1181½	Daily Mail	1309¾	-12½	1.7	
1209¾	959¾	Daily Mail 'A'	1159¾	-9¾	1.9	
558	295	Dorling Kind	533	+3	0.9	43.5
574	385	EMAP	527		2.6	20.5
904¼	584¾	Elsevier	832½	-13½	2.6	21.0
1655	930	Euromoney Plt	1093	-30	5.3	
25½	10	Fitch	22			14.5
508	333	Flextech	472			
240	143	GGT Group	233		2.8	19.4
180	109½	GWR Gp	179	+1	1.6	
203	198	Gearhouse Group	199		2.8	13.0
36	13	Goodhead	18		0.3	
232	130½	Grampian	218		2.7	18.7
302	132	HTV Group	293		1.2	30.2
358	256	Haynes Pub	290		4.1	14.3
50	17	Highbury Hse	22			
390	233	Hodder H'line	252		3.0	15.6
163	137	Home Counts	162		4.2	18.5
346	226	IBC	286		3.5	12.2
13½	6½	Incepta	10½			5.1
398	248	Independent	398	+3	2.7	19.1
135	98	Interurope	100		9.8	
169	136	Johnston Press	144		1.8	17.4
25	15	Lopex	16		3.3	15.4
356	63	MAID	324	+2		
657	528	Metal Bulletin	649		2.5	27.3
139	109	Midland Ind	124	-1	3.4	13.0
189½	120	Mirror Gp	176		2.6	11.5
483	344	More O'Ferrall	457		3.7	18.8
386	231	News Corp	344	-6	0.4	10.2
338	207	News Intl	307	-2	1.3	12.1
35	15	Osprey Comms	21		1.2	
686	539	Pearson	622	+8	3.1	18.2
267½	155	Phonelink	190	+1		
606	523	Portsmth Sund	580		3.6	14.6
291	210	Quarto	253	-1	3.1	12.8
1050	712	Reed Intl	972	+1	2.9	25.1
631	404	Reuters	585	-13	1.8	24.9
334	222¾	Scott Radio	311		2.7	
515	393	Scot TV	479		4.1	31.5
35	20½	SelecTV	30			50.9
41	32	Shandwick	36½		4.5	8.5
65	33	Sleepy Kids	44			23.6
274	222	Southnews	261		2.3	16.1
98	20	Sterling Pub	28			
45	33½	Taylor Nelson	39½		2.2	20.1
453	356	Telegraph	418		3.9	37.3
115	102	Television Cp	110		5.1	
885	725	Thomson Corp	865		5.1	16.3
352	301½	Trinity Intl	340		3.9	13.1
1047	632	Ulster TV	1044		2.7	20.2
571	464	United News	554	+5	5.2	14.5
131	85	VTR	130		4.2	13.4
167	101	WPP	161	+1	0.9	22.2
68	55	Wilmington	66			31.0
702	368	Yorkshire TV	686		1.4	73.4

MINING

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4625	3883¾	Ang Am Coal	3912½		3.0	14.7
4196¼	2846¼	Ang Am	3990¾	-68¾	2.1	28.6
6487½	4975	Ang Am Gold	5203¾	-84¾	4.2	14.9
32	22	Anglo Pac Res	23½			
40½	17	Arcon Intl	33½	+½		
1600	1100	Ashanti	1390¾	-18¾	1.9	
117	74	Ashton	88	-1	6.0	
263	133	Ballyrich	254	-1		
622	397¼	Beatrix	568¾	-8	3.9	26.3
34	28	Bisichi	30		3.0	
117½	78¼	Blyvoors	107	-3½		
37	24	Bougainville	28	-2		
18	7½	Bracken	9½			9.1
583½	200¾	Buffels	300½	-18¾		
4	1½	Butte	2¼			
1076	781	CRA	1018	-18	2.8	23.6
135	40	Central Pacific	131	-4		
108	41	Cluff Res	107	-1		
120	25	Coal Invs	25			
225	115	Cons Murchison	115		5.3	3.1
2043½	1262½	De Beers	2000	+12½	2.6	22.4
108½	47	Deelkraal	51½	-½	1.7	
997½	693½	Driefontein	805	-10	3.9	25.5
795½	408½	Durban	512½	+58¾		
210¾	127¾	E Rand Gold	168	+5¾	13.1	7.7
76½	31½	E Rand Prop	32	-½		
70	45	Eastern Trans	64		1.8	62.3
450½	271½	Elandsrand	328½	+12¼	2.9	11.3
415	285	Eng China Cl	316		6.5	15.3
975¼	516¾	FS Cons	516¾	-18¾	5.3	19.0
62	31	FS Dev	36		3.4	
2087½	1418¾	GFSA	2025	-12½	1.9	27.8
63	40	Gld Kalgoorli	60		2.4	
244½	189½	Gencor	221	-6¼	1.6	19.7
155	136	Gold Fields Prop	154		6.8	7.0
19	12½	Greenwich R 'A'	14½			
182½	116¼	Grootvlei	139½	-1½	6.3	17.7
108½	76½	Gwalia Cons	103		0.9	19.9
657½	457½	Harmony	573½	-11½	1.2	16.2
296½	155½	Hartebst	160½	-2	9.2	12.1
1743½	1150	Impala Plat	1268½	-34½	2.4	18.6
132	77	Kidston	88	+3	13.7	7.9
1087½	478½	Kinross	583½	-6½	7.4	7.1
949½	590	Kloof	604½	-15½	4.4	23.0
124½	65	Leslie	67½	-¾	11.7	5.7
288	174½	Loraine	189	+1		
21	12	Mcelalharra	14			
113	77	MIM	87		2.8	
1925	1250	Minorco	1900	+25	2.2	24.2
187	36	Monarch	84			
185	90	Montague	180		2.4	12.2
109	77	NSM	77		8.9	6.9
191	133	Nth Brkn Hill	178		3.0	26.0
108	66	Paaconmmand	101	-1		
285	123	Petaling Tin	243	+5	0.8	
182	116	Placer Pac	127	-4	2.3	
548	317	RJB	548		2.9	15.2
957	721	RTZ	943	+1	3.3	13.6
54	24	Redwood	49		2.6	12.5
743½	543	Rand Mines	543		2.7	37.7
727½	320½	Randfontein	408½	-5	6.7	21.5
325	175	Renison	310	-7	1.5	12.9
1753¼	1076¼	Rustnbg	1078¼	-50	3.5	
73	35	St Barbara	38		3.7	9.7
623½	324	St Helena	360½	-4½	15.1	5.5
365	307	Sons Gwalia	340		3.5	21.8
60	16	Siberian Pacific	30	-1		
2016¾	1353¾	Southvaal	1721½	+12½	4.4	22.6
123	38½	Stilfontein	61	+12½	20.2	6.2
210½	123½	Unisel	168	-2	6.8	12.3
5800	3368¾	Vaal Reefs	4275	-118¾	3.8	9.4
19	8	Wankie Col Z	16		7.7	3.8
1½	0½	Wales Hill	1½			
533	473	Watts Blake	533		3.4	17.5
2587½	1853¾	Western Deep	2168¾	-78¾	2.8	11.2
449¾	302	Western Mng	429¾	-½	1.3	43.9
881¼	416¾	Winkels	443¾	-18¾	8.3	9.3
48	30	Zambia Copper	30			
53	38	Zandpan	38		7.6	

OIL & GAS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
62	34	Abbot Group	52			
79½	39½	Aran Energy	77			
56½	41	Arc Oil & Gas	43½			
58	37	Aviva Pet	39	+1		
343	220	Br Borneo	343	+4	2.7	16.0
317½	222¾	British Gas	255	-1	7.1	17.1
547	392	Br Petroleum	545	+10	3.2	15.8
3	2	Bula Resources	2½			
999	815	Burmah Castrol	942	+3	4.1	15.4
119	69¾	Calm Energy	117			
280	218	Calor Gp	242		6.5	13.4
61½	36	Clyde Pet	58		2.3	12.1
14	9¼	Coplex Res	9½			
2½	1½	Dragon Oil	1½			
22½	18	Edin Oil & Gs	21½			12.1
424	329	Enterprise	404	+6	5.0	22.9
280	230	Flogas	235		5.4	10.7
8½	5	Fortune	8			59.0
98	62	Goal Pet	96½		1.9	14.7
42	11	Gt Western Res	11½			
203	129	Hardy O & G	203	+1	0.6	
7½	4½	Intl Tool & Sup	5¼			
225	155	JKX Oil & Gas	158			
186	139	LASMO	182	+2	0.7	
56	33	Lasmo Units	40			25.9
70½	57	Monument	57½			36.5
2918¼	2134¾	Norsk Hydro	2646½	-21¼	1.6	14.6
50	27	Oceonics	27			
58	38	Oil Search	54	-1		
41½	26¾	Petroz	26¾			
29½	22½	Premier	27			16.4
43	11	Presidio	11			
86	41	Pittencrieff Rs	49		1.3	
388	221	Ramco Egy	378	-1	0.3	52.2
453	330	Ranger	410		5.0	
9012½	6865½	Royal Dtch Fl	8853½	-112½	4.0	16.5
4500	3218¾	Schlumberger	4453½	-37½	2.2	
49	24	Scott Pickford	29		3.9	19.9
118	72	Seafield	80	+3		41.9
862½	687	Shell	860	+5	4.2	19.1
4318¾	3234¾	Total	4253½		3.7	15.0
14½	9½	Villiers Gp	12			
345	221	Woodside	324	-15	1.2	
58	28	XCL	28			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
101	75	BWD	78		6.9	12.4
79	38	Berry Bch NM	40		6.1	11.3
285	148	Bisiec Inv	262	+5		
158	112	Brewin Dolphin	153		4.9	15.9
720	625	Caledonia	719		3.0	22.3
2400	1900	Camellia	2000		2.3	18.4
22½	13	Carlisle	20½		1.5	21.8
217	142	Cattles	211		3.6	18.0
35	16	Christie	24			
17½	13½	EFG	15½	-½	4.0	3.1
98	61	EFT Group	82		2.5	16.6
775	553	EFM	654	-1	4.6	15.4
186	97	Exco	98½		7.6	5.0
305	161	Gartmore	274	-½	2.5	23.9
379	220	Govett	232	-2	8.0	3.8
1272	963	Henderson Admn	1145	-5	4.9	23.4
266	162½	Invesco	254	+2	2.4	17.5
49	41	Investment Co	41		7.0	12.5
234	198	Ivory Smmt	230½		4.2	17.1
248¾	164½	Jardine Strat	198¾	+1½	4.7	6.5
144	85	Johnson Fry	128		3.9	9.0
218	131	Lon Forfaiting	218	+1	6.4	15.6
171	116	Lon Scot Bk	171		3.2	19.9
182	142	Man ED & F	142	-1	8.5	7.2
1353	953	M & G	1245	-15	3.2	
346	224	MAI	304½	-1	3.6	15.1
130½	78	MAI 5.9% Cv Pf	113½		6.5	
966	680	MAM	873	+10	3.9	19.2
130	90	Nat Home Loan	105	+1	1.2	3.7
1850	1150	Perpetual	1835	+2	2.7	19.4
852	515	Provident	801	-3	3.9	17.5
330	245	Rathbone Brs	328		3.6	16.9
41½	24½	Rutland Tst	39	-½	4.2	17.0
355	281	S & U	289		5.6	8.5
133	105	SP Capital	109½	-1	3.4	20.7
525¼	305½	Smrt Pacific	500	-9½	2.4	19.8
78	41	Towry Law	42		7.4	
371	302	Transatlantic	344	-3	5.1	23.1
26	3	Trio Hldgs	5			
26	17	Western Selectn	17½	+½		69.6

PHARMACEUTICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
2100	425	Brit Biotech	1810	+17		
345	103	Cantab Pharms	338			
614	233½	Celltech	587	+9		
375	92½	Chiroscience	334	+1		
188	31	Cortecs	166	+7		
912½	587	Glaxo Wellcome	904	+7	4.1	20.7
294	162	Medeva	273	-2	1.6	17.6
719	273	Scotia	548	-2		
714	444	SmithKline	702	+15	2.4	20.8
703	416	SmithKline Uts	694	+14	2.4	20.6
1337½	840	Zeneca	1233	+3	2.9	25.1

PRINTING & PAPER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	120	AG Holdings	130		5.5	12.0
554	377	API	553	-1	2.3	
290	147½	Arjo Wiggins	184	+3	5.7	7.4
50	31	Ashquay Grp	50			
250	162	Aspen Comms	239	+1	3.0	17.8
426	347	Bemrose	396		4.2	12.7
3471½	1675	Bowater Inc	2290¾	+37½		
429	260	Bowmore Ind	420	-2	1.4	19.7
700	474	Br Polythene	648	+3	2.8	14.8
40	21	Br Thornton	22	-1	5.7	7.5
162	112	Buton Grp	161		2.1	17.1
218	159	Bunzl	200	+1½	3.2	13.8
187	137	Capital Inds	172		3.6	12.3
2925	2046¾	Cascad Mtl	2906½	+12½	2.0	17.4
314	237	Cropper (James)	287		1.6	19.1
1054	625	De La Rue	649	+10	4.5	13.7
108	52	Delyn Group	92	+1	2.6	12.2
131	93	Dolphin Pack	131		4.5	16.6
100	81	Fairway Group	95		4.9	13.9
352	205	Ferguson Intl	221		1.5	9.7
192	102	Fenry Pick	192		3.9	17.2
206	138	Inveresk	176		4.0	15.7
295	245	Jarvis Porter	279		2.8	14.9
548	381	Low & Bonar	462		3.2	13.8
74	50	My Holdings	66		3.8	12.9
224	152½	Macfarlane	214	+5	2.0	20.2
332	150	Photobition	323	-4	2.4	21.6
230	183	Plysu	176	-2	5.0	18.9
519	327	REXAM	357	+5	4.9	11.5
461	334	St Ives Gp	456		2.3	18.0
1329¾	886	Sappi	969¾	-2	0.5	
9½	5½	Sonti	7			
205	125	Sullart	126		10.9	
339	241	Smith David	271	+1	3.1	10.8
215	148	Smurfit (Jeff)	151	-2	3.1	8.8
99	79	Somel	79		4.7	6.8
391	213	Wace	244	+1	3.9	11.5
236	187	Waddington (J)	207		5.4	12.5
452	350	Watmough	452	+10	2.4	19.3
193	131	Wyndeham	184		3.0	16.7

PROPERTY

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
93	56	Allied Lond	58	+1	8.6	5.3
316	255	Argent	312	+13		
90	66	Artesian Ests	69	-1	1.4	
128	103	Asda	120		2.6	30.0
258	209	Bilton	209		5.9	14.9
215	131	Birkby	148		6.5	8.8
27	7	Bolton Gp	20			
73	43	Bourne End	43	-1	3.3	57.9
204	171	Bradford	204	+3	4.6	18.9
123	96	Brightstone	98		5.0	45.9
436	354	Br Land	376	+6	2.5	31.5
202	163	Brixton	175	+1	6.1	16.3
106	60½	Burford	105	+½	2.2	28.0
101	85	CLS Hldgs	94		6.7	12.9
172	131	Cap & Regnl	148	-1	1.9	16.0
225	187	Cap Shop Ctrs	215		4.1	25.6
228	153	Cardiff Prop	153		2.1	27.7
29½	10	Carlsey Inv	11½	+½		
190	143	Chelsfield	175	+1	1.9	38.4
468	422	Chesterfield	436		3.7	19.0
88	55	Chesterton Int	67		5.6	9.4
53	36	City Site Ests	38			9.1
8	5	Clarke Nickolls	7½		3.7	10.6
109	97	Compco	109	+7	3.8	13.6
30	19	Con Rebbl	25	-1	2.9	27.9
1205	1160	Daejan	1160		3.4	11.2
7	2½	Darts Estates	3			
95	41	Debenham Twsn	45		9.7	8.3
163	136	Dencora	137		3.4	13.5
315	225	Derwent Hldgs	311		2.1	16.2
195	130	Development Sec	174		1.7	
46	31	Dwyer	36		3.9	
37	25	Eleco	31			17.4
400	250	Estates Agency	400		4.6	
23½	13	Estates Gen	13			
119	82	Evans Of Leeds	107		3.3	16.0
27½	18	Ex-Lands	20½		3.0	
69	52	Fiscal Prop	57		4.2	17.5
26½	21	Five Oaks	22¼		3.9	10.6
32	16	Fletcher King	19		6.6	
80	41	Folkes Group	59		3.4	7.8
59	34	Folkes Group nv	55		3.6	7.2
499	405	Frogmore	453	+1	5.0	
282	236	Grainger	241		3.4	
198	159	Gt Portland	172	+2	6.4	13.6
161	117½	Greycoat	142		0.5	
42	22	Hamtons Cntyw	40		0.2	
398	310	Hammerson	348	+3	3.6	24.3
332	300	Helical Bar	317		2.6	12.2
28½	22	Hemingway	23½		2.9	16.2
21	7	Henry Baker	10½			
50	26	High-Point	31		2.0	
148¾	88¼	HK Land	119½	+1	6.2	13.5
165	153	Jermyn	160		2.8	
2	0¼	Kendell	1			
645	545	Land Secs	608	+8	5.2	17.7
336	283	London Indt	284		4.8	15.1
37	26	Lon & Assoc	27		3.1	14.1
9	4½	Lon & Metro	5			
107	86	Lon Merch Sect	91½	-½	6.0	30.6
418	358	MEPC	392	+4	6.4	
7½	5½	McInerney A	5½			
165	122	McKay Secs	124		5.2	16.1
80	48	Mercale Mre	67		7.0	9.7
35	25	Moorfield Est	31		4.0	16.0
1250	850	Mountview	1050		3.3	8.8
151	124	Muckloe (A&J)	135		6.0	18.4
83	73	ORB	77			
32	23	Olives Prop	25		1.5	22.4
148	125	PSIT	126½		5.3	14.9
319	204	Peel	308		2.2	
178	139	Pillar Prop	142½	+½	3.9	39.0
2½	1¼	Power Corp	2			
6½	3¼	Premier Land	4¼			14.9
111	70	RPS Group	110		3.6	14.5
34	17½	Raglan	23	+3	5.4	7.2
28	18	Regalian	21½			24.7
163	100	Rowlinson Secs	143		2.0	11.1
102	88	Rugby Est	93		3.0	7.8
57	40	St Modwen Prp	55		4.1	8.0
68	54	Saville Gdn (J)	54		6.9	12.6
63	42	Savills	54		5.8	9.8
81	67	Scot Metr	71		4.4	11.0
124	86	Shaftesbury	124	+1	1.5	16.5
243	189	Slough Estates	214	+2	4.7	26.0
220	185	Smart (J)	208		5.4	8.9
55	37	Southend Prop	41		8.0	
110	101	Specialty Shops	101		1.6	14.1
55	33½	TBLA	53		0.4	20.0
167	124	Tops Ests	124		2.4	31.8
104	85	Town Centre	94		4.3	14.7
101	79	Trafford Park	97		4.3	10.4
86	33	UK Land	64		2.0	7.1
61	40	WSP Group	43		6.1	9.6
219	182	Warner	201		7.1	17.0
235	203	Warnford	204		4.8	16.8
79	63	Wates	65			
36	25	Whiteley Mck	28			
66	33	Wood John D	37	+1	6.8	9.2

RETAILERS, FOOD

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
112	64½	ASDA Group	110½	-½	2.6	16.4
369	254½	Argyll	335	+4	4.5	14.4
718	455	Bake Brost	658		1.6	19.8
39	23	Budgen	31		4.4	29.2
18	11½	Cullens	14		4.5	19.7
89¼	45	Dairy Farm Ind	58	+4½	6.6	8.4
355	302	Farepak	305		3.2	14.9
55	38	Fitzwilton	50		5.6	21.7
115	95	Fyffes	108		1.9	15.4
205	103	Geest	189	-3	5.4	75.4
1283	1048	Greggs	1153		2.6	15.9
196	142	Iceland Group	151	+1	4.3	9.1
732	494	Kwik Save	503	+6	5.0	9.2
19½	10	Merchant Retail	18½			11.5
170	132	Morrison (W)	137	+3	1.1	13.6
199	136	Nurdin Peack	153		5.7	16.3
128	83	Park Foods	85		4.2	14.7
30	7½	Regina Hlth	12	+½		
479½	363	Sainsbury J	383	+4	3.9	12.7
339	236	Tesco	297	+3	3.8	14.1
175	128	Thorntons	141	+1	4.7	16.2
535	358	Whitbread Philip	535		3.6	18.8

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
84	21	Alexon	82½	+½		
244	162	Allders	167	+2	5.4	
615½	324	Argos	589	-2	2.5	24.9
131	63	Ashley (Laura)	130			
251	54	Aspray	250		0.6	34.3
226	159	Austin Reed	159		4.7	9.2
146	123	Beattie (J) 'A'	138		5.9	19.1
124	95	Bentalls	97	-1	2.8	10.5
88	38	Betterware	70½	+2	4.6	40.5
51	30	Blacks Leis	49½	-½	5.7	25.5
194	107	Body Shop	160	-1	2.0	9.5
596	465	Boots	581	-2	3.7	16.0
54	18	Brown & Jackson	22			
276	205	Brown (N)	268		2.4	30.4
135½	96	Burton	133½	+½	2.1	25.1
150	90	Cantors	113	+3	3.3	19.5
429	235	Carpetright	423	+2	3.1	25.3
319	133	Christies Intl	311		1.3	35.8
400	353	Church	361	+8	4.8	14.8
183	67	Clinton Cards	113	+7	5.4	14.2
147	84	C'try Casuals	147	+2	4.6	
813	708	Courts Furnish	750	+5	1.1	21.9
220	183	Crown Eyet	195		7.1	8.0
387	238	DFS Furniture	387		2.7	23.4
449	186	Dixons Gp	449	+18	2.2	27.0
580	580	Dvs (Wimbldn)	580		3.9	36.9
11½	5½	ERA Gp	8½			13.2
161	77	Ernie Fundt	105		5.1	
236	147	Etam	192		4.1	
460	320	Fine Art Devt	411	-2	4.7	12.6
66	37	Fired Earth	66		1.9	23.8
144	81	Flying Flowers	136	-1	2.0	17.7
295	183	French Conn	185			12.0
269½	193	Frost Group	195		4.1	16.4
81	46	Geves	78		3.2	17.6
229	112	Goldsmiths Gp	227	+2	1.9	20.6
686	508	GUS	683	+11	3.9	17.9
350	179	Hamleys	348	+1	2.8	15.5
78	25	Hampden Grp	78	-3	2.4	15.1
175	125	Hse of Fraser	175	+1½	3.9	22.6
83	57	Hughes (TJ)	60		9.5	13.3
168	95	Innovations	136		1.7	68.9
574	229	JJB Sports	571	+33	1.3	26.6
550	379	Kingfisher	544	-5	3.5	18.1
165	100	Kingsbury Grp	164	+4	1.8	23.1
365	208	Liberty	313		3.9	29.2
305	184	Lloyds Chem	260		4.9	9.8
165	108	MFI	161½	+1½	3.3	21.2
457	371	Marks Spencer	442	+6	3.0	19.1
645	500	Menzies (John)	628		2.6	14.1
620	338	Moss Bros	618		2.8	18.0
488	252	Next	454	+1	2.8	25.0
54	37	OEM	41	+1		
96	34	Owen (G)	56	-1	2.2	62.4
405	243	Ordiarse Intl	405		3.5	16.0
93	70	Partridge Fine	70		5.9	9.6
155	47	QS Hldgs	47		13.8	12.3
17½	5½	Rhino Grp	14			
193	113	Rosebys	192		3.2	22.2
120½	85½	Sears	105	+3½	4.7	18.7
24	17¼	Signet Group	17			
484	321	Smith WH	430	+7	4.5	15.2
350	238	Sothebys	298		1.7	
349	209	Storehouse	333		2.5	20.5
140	112	Stylo	120		4.9	10.3
303	143	T & S Stores	181		4.6	11.5
166	98	Tie Rack	165		2.1	17.3
4½	1	Upton & South	2¼			
598	424	Vendome	573	+5	2.2	20.8
35	14	WEW Group	16		5.5	9.5
67	35	Wd of Leather	53		3.5	64.1
198	155	Wyevale	198		3.2	17.6

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	476½	Allied Domecq	517	+5	5.7	20.8
503	380	Bulmer (HP)	503	+4	3.1	16.8
148	99	Burn Stewart	132		4.7	28.4
485	352	Grand Met	463	+4	4.1	16.0
536	404	Guinness	474	+5	3.7	14.7
445	317	Highland Distl	337	+4	3.0	14.8
217	175	Macallan-Glen	189		0.9	41.9
710	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	625		2.2	17.6
681	532	Matthew Clark	680	+1	3.9	
140	61	Merydon Wt	118		2.1	
259	129	Taunton Cider	250		3.5	24.4

SUPPORT SERVICES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
945	620	ADT	883	+10		
41	22	Alphameric	27	-1	1.2	20.2
74	18	Auto Sec	29	+2		8.9
146	101½	BET Ord	122		4.3	12.2
176	128	BNB Res	128		5.6	10.0
293	220	BPP	285	+2	4.4	16.5
199	131	BSM	153		5.4	11.6
9¼	0¾	Black & Edgr	9			
1150	500	Borland	1062½			
215	105	Brit Data Mgt	120		5.6	27.5
96	59	Brooks Service	80		3.9	17.7
347	298	CMG	328		1.8	17.0
121	75	CRT Gp	115		4.2	18.1
289	139	Capita Group	284	+1	1.5	26.2
100	16	Cardinal Bus	21			
359	277½	Chubb Sec	324	-5	3.0	17.0
94	58¾	Corp Services	92		4.1	15.7
61	41	Coutts Cnslg	47		4.5	
102	65	DCS Gp	75	-3	1.7	14.9
256	204	Davis Service	215		5.1	12.7
362	223	Delphi	362	+6	1.2	44.8
107	66	Dudley Jenkns	99		4.3	15.2
94	28	EW Fact	45	+1	8.3	6.2
183	114	El Data Prc	117	-1	2.3	
403	280	Hays	373	+2	2.3	20.0
229	145	Hogg Robinson	227	+8	4.4	13.9
2031¼	1268¾	ISS B Dkk	1481¼	+28¾	1.7	13.2
415	152	JBA Hldgs	391	+2	1.1	41.1
279	222	Johnson Clean	258		5.2	14.6
116	80	Kalamazoo	115	-1	4.2	11.5
352	239	Kewill Syst	351		2.4	12.4
27	11	Laser-Scan	16			
387	77	LBMS	285	-12		
462	301	Logica	462			
94	29	MDIS	41	+5	15.7	9.0
253	180	MMT Comp	246		3.2	15.1
128	54	MR Data Mngt	70½		6.3	50.1
478	368	Macro 4	423		6.5	11.5
2140¾	1553¾	Manpower	1665¾	+9¾	0.5	
840	553	Micro Focus	565			
183	102	Microgen	179		5.1	15.4
636	306	Misys	573	-2	2.0	16.3
317	197	MITIE Gp	317	+3	1.2	26.0
36	22	Novo Group	35		4.3	11.7
27	15	OIS Intl	25		1.5	
32	18	Orbist	30		2.7	14.6
163	74	P & P	151		2.3	15.3
175	110	Michael Page	168		2.5	18.8
184	106	Parity	175		1.4	21.4
245	138	Pegasus	210		3.0	15.1
110	75	Pennat	84		1.5	49.0
73	18	Proudfoot	28½		8.8	
305	190	RCO	191		10.5	7.6
60½	33	Radius	52	-2	2.8	14.4
302	150	Real Time	178		3.2	11.8
144	98	Reed Executive	105		2.4	12.0
235	142	Reliance Sec	235	+5	3.3	22.1
339	212½	Rentokil	335	-2	1.4	25.9
158	126	Ricardo Group	126		6.2	13.9
293	158	Rolfe & Nolan	269	-1	2.0	40.1
355	132½	Sage Gp	324	-1	0.9	
291	229	Salvesen (C)	264		4.0	13.3
148	79	Sanderson Elect	142	+1	3.3	16.5
17½	11½	Select App	17			30.1
546	380	Serco Gp	536		1.0	25.6
380	238	Serco Gp	368		1.4	28.8
189	80	Shared Gmp	185		1.5	
143	83	Shelchley	126		3.5	16.3
22½	11	Standard Plat	16½			
220	167	Stat-Plus	205		6.1	16.8
830	116	Unipalm	660			
25	11½	Vertec	22½		2.9	
295	235	Warner Howard	235		4.4	11.2

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
415½	340½	BT	346	-5½	6.5	12.2
477	350	Cable Wireless	461	+2	2.5	19.6
209	165½	General Cable	191	+2		
147	114	NYNEX Cable	114½	+½		
1765	1475	Securicor	1678		0.3	
1130	860	Securicor 'A'	880		0.6	
1058	729	Security Serv	888		1.1	
195	155	TeleWest	156½	+½		
285½	177½	Vodafone	223	-½	2.1	27.4

TEXTILES & APPAREL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
80	48	Albion	49	+1	6.1	2.6
180	115	Alexndra W	179		4.3	18.6
259	213	Allied Text	230	-1	3.8	13.5
111	72	Atkins	104		9.4	19.9
34	26	Automagic	26			6.6
246	172½	Baird (Wm)	174		6.7	12.9
288	229	Black (Peter)	272		2.3	17.4
161	111	Bridport-Gndry	160		2.6	19.2
213	133	Br Mohair	135		8.3	8.4
17	14	Campari	16			
185	61	Charlr Phnps	77	-1	13.6	4.4
342	253	Claremont Gar	278	+1	4.2	13.4
221	164	Coats Viyella	175	+1	6.2	11.7
512	365	Courtaulds Txt	368		5.2	10.6
160	113	Dailywear	155		4.8	8.6
129	92½	Dawson	106		3.5	
194	129½	Dewhirst (I)	180	+1	2.1	17.3
41	30	Drake Heel	35	+1	5.0	8.9
38	25	Drummond	26½		3.5	8.1
26	13	Ebel	17½			
67	23	Faupel	27	+1	17.4	5.3
470	260	FII	443		4.2	
153	120	Forminster	121		3.6	9.3
21	11	Foster (John)	12			
95	68	French	69		6.6	14.1
103	73	Gent SR	84	-3	3.7	7.6
129	85	Haggas	129		2.9	16.9
18½	7¼	Hartstone	11		3.6	34.2
27	12½	Helene Plc	12½		13.4	5.5
315	213	Hicking Pntcst	315		2.3	17.5
26	12	Hollas	13½	+1	5.2	
71	39	Honeysuckle	38		7.1	8.8
133	80	Horace Small	80½	+½		7.2
218	178	Jacques Vert	182		4.6	8.4
79	56	Jerome (S)	75		2.9	7.5
455	327	Jones Stroud	444		2.8	16.5
157	118	Lambert	138		6.4	10.6
357	215	Lamont	248		6.5	9.8
306	241	Leeds	259		3.2	
73	42	Lister Vtne Gp	52		10.2	8.6
84	54	Lyles (S)	55			
29½	23	Mating	23½		3.5	12.6
10	4½	PEX	7	-1½		
210	135	Parkland	196	+13	3.6	8.5
147	102	Pentland	113		3.5	16.3
73	41	Pittards	55		2.8	
74½	58¾	Readicut	69½	-½	6.2	18.5
81	61	Response	66		6.4	7.0
56	38	Richards	38		6.7	
76	50	SEET	64			
124	75	Sherwood Gp	106	-1	4.0	12.8
142	92	Shiloh	98		4.8	6.5
107	89	Sirdar	93	+1	7.4	25.1
121	41	Stirling Grp	42	-1	6.2	9.2
21	13	Strong & Fisher	17		8.8	17.1
40	18	UK Safety	18		16.4	22.4
186	114	Usher (Frank)	174	-1	7.2	8.8
153	96	Wensum	134		4.1	13.1
335	244	Yorklyde	335		2.8	11.8

TRANSPORT

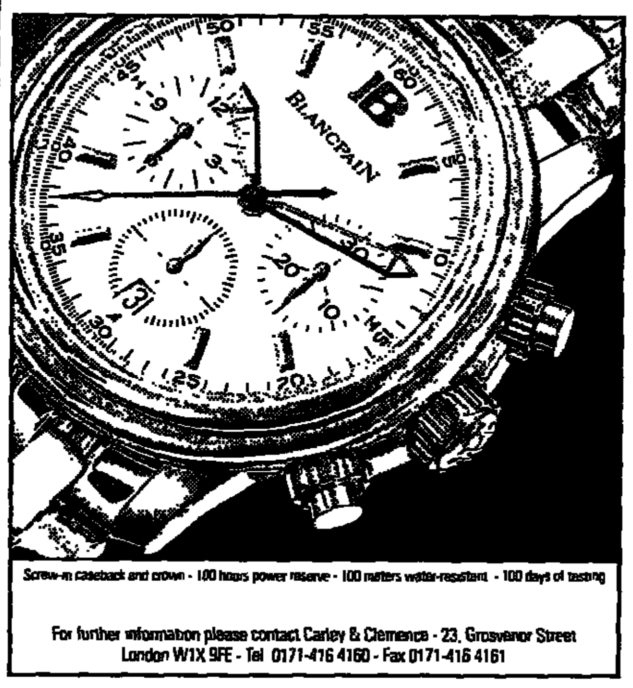
1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
119	61	Air London	107	+4	4.7	13.2
768½	595	All Nippon Air	664	-5½	0.3	
330	262	Assoc Br Ports	282	+3	2.9	16.9
546	414	BAA	482	-4	2.7	16.3
484	348	Br Airways	465	-7	3.4	11.6
51	12	Central Tran R	12½			
123	93	Clarkson (H)	106		2.9	17.3
193	153	Clydeport	170		2.6	15.7
214	142	Dart	214		2.9	13.6
324	76½	Eurotunnel Uts	87			
158	131	FirstBus	156	+5	3.6	
85	50	Fisher (James)	85		2.2	17.8
625	405	Forth Ports	570		2.3	19.0
305	166	Go-Ahead	283	-1	2.1	10.5
273	198	Goode Durrant	250		3.6	12.3
139	100	Jold Steam	109		5.0	26.3
548	393	Irish Cont	478		1.0	11.9
70	52	Jacobs	65		2.0	
107	67	Lon O'Seas Frst	82		0.8	16.8
485	358	Mersey Docks	424		3.2	16.2
189	130	NFC	143½	+5½	6.3	
422	289	Natl Express	360	+2	3.1	14.2
391	261	Ocean Group	383	+1	4.7	23.5
94	88	Ocean Wilson	87	+2	6.1	3.4
637	456	P & O Dfd	474	+4	8.0	12.6
211	157	P & O 5.5%	165	+4	4.2	
89	55	Seacon	63		4.5	35.8
237	158	Sayvieur	228	+1	2.1	31.3
340	196	Stagecoach	340	+10	2.1	19.8
110	78	TKT	85	-1		
713	358	Tibbet & Britn	395		5.1	12.8
241	175	TDG	187	+4	6.4	12.4
128	66	Ugland▼	67	-1	3.8	11.1
113	77	Utd Carriers	88		7.0	16.7

WATER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
611	443	Anglian	607	-1	5.5	9.3
430	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	430		3.9	11.6
641	467½	North West▼	616	+12	5.4	7.8
1175	676	Northumbrian	1169	-1	3.2	9.1
685	475	Severn Trent	678	-2	5.5	8.2
2400	1855	South Staffs	2388		3.8	13.9
555	458	South West	524	+1	6.7	7.3
731	517	Southern	679	-9	5.0	8.3
575	456	Thames	555		5.9	7.6
800	592¾	Welsh	760	-8	6.9	9.1
109¾	100¼	Welsh Con Pd	108¾	+¾	9.4	
361	256½	Wessex	346	+2	5.1	7.3
677½	472	Yorkshire	595	-3	6.0	7.8

Source: Finstat

© USM. # Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures on report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 index.



Screw-in caseback and crown - 100 hours power reserve - 100 meters water-resistant - 100 days of testing

For further information please contact Carley & Clemence - 23, Grosvenor Street London W1X 9FE - Tel 0171-416 4160 - Fax 0171-416 4161

BRITISH FUNDS

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Gross red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
106¾	100	Treas 14% 1996	100 xd		13.92	...
109¾	103	Treas 15¼% 1996	103	-	14.79	6.28
107¼	102½	Exch 13¼% 1996	102½	-	12.91	6.23
104	103	Conv 10% 1996	103		9.68	6.12
101½	97½	Treas 7% 1997	101½		6.91	6.13
109	107	Treas 13¼% 1997	108 †	-	12.36	6.17
105	104	Exch 10½% 1997	104		10.03	6.15
104	100	Treas 8¾% 1997	104	-	8.41	6.16
117	114	Exch 15% 1997	114	-	13.06	6.23
107	102¾	Exch 9¾% 1998	106 †	...	9.14	6.24
102	96	Treas 7¼% 1998	101½	+	7.12	6.31
100¾	94	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100	..	6.75	6.73
117¾	114	Treas 14% 1998-01	116	+	12.00	6.36
124¾	120¾	Treas 15½% 1998	122	+	12.65	6.42
114¾	109	Exch 12% 1998	114	+	10.50	6.50
108¾	100¾	Treas 9½% 1999	108 †	+	8.79	6.51
118¾	111	Exch 12¼% 1999	116	+	10.53	6.55
111	105	Treas 10½% 1999	111	+	9.40	6.62
98	89	Treas 6% 1999	97	+	6.13	6.63
112¼	105½	Conv 10¼% 1999	111	+	9.16	6.73
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
109¾	100	Conv 9% 2000	108	+	8.32	6.72
107¾	98	Treas 8% 2000	104	+	7.82	6.78
124¼	117	Treas 13% 2000	123 †	+	10.49	6.80
113¾	104	Treas 10% 2001	113	+	8.84	6.90
100	90	Treas 7% 2001	100	+ ½	6.98	6.94
114	103	Treas 9¾% 2002	113	+	8.58	7.13
104	94½	Treas 8% 2003	104	+	7.65	7.19
116	105¾	Treas 10% 2003	116	+	8.62	7.24
119¾	110	Treas 11½% 2001-04	119	+	9.66	7.07
83½	70½	Fund 3½% 1999-04	82½ †	+	4.24	6.10
113	103	Conv 9½% 2004	113	+	8.38	7.41
96	86	Treas 6¾% 2004	95¼	+	7.05	7.41
108¾	97½	Treas 8½% 2005	107	+	7.90	7.42
114½	103¾	Conv 9½% 2005	113½	+	8.37	7.48
130	119	Treas 12½% 2003-05	130½	+	9.58	7.34
101½	96	Treas 7½% 2006	100	+	7.47	7.44
102½	92½	Treas 7¾% 2006	102	+	7.60	7.48
104	93½	Treas 8% 2002-06	103¾	+1	7.71	7.50
124¾	113	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	124¼ †	+ ¼	9.46	7.29
108	97	Treas 8½% 2007	107 xd†	+	7.90	7.51
139	126	Treas 13½% 2004-08	137	+	9.82	7.36
112¾	101½	Treas 9% 2008	111	+	8.06	7.57
102	94	Treas 8% 2009	102	+	7.77	7.61
LONGS (over 15 years)						
87	79	Treas 6¼% 2010	87	+	7.15	7.68
112½	101	Conv 9% 2011	111 xd†	+1	8.04	7.88
112	102	Treas 9% 2012	112	+1	8.02	7.88
82	72¾	Treas 5½% 2008-12	81¾	+	6.73	7.40
103	93	Treas 8% 2013	103	+1	7.76	7.68
101½	91	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	100¾ †	+	7.74	7.70
104	93	Treas 8% 2015	103	+1	7.74	7.67
111½	100	Treas 8¾% 2017	110	+1	7.91	7.72
141	127	Exch 12% 2013-17	140	+1	8.54	7.70
UNDATED						
45	40	War Ln 3½%	44	+	7.82	..
31	28¾	Treas 2½%	31		7.89	
50¾	45½	Consols 4%	50 †	+	8.00	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
215¾	201	Treas IL 2% 1996	215¾			1.90
112¾	106	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	112¾	+	1.24	2.46
178½	165	Treas IL 2½% 2001	178½	+	2.79	3.28
174¾	161	Treas IL 2½% 2003	174¾	+	3.00	3.39
115	108	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	115	+	3.03	3.38
183	168	Treas IL 2% 2006	183½ †	+	3.15	3.43
166½	152	Treas IL 2½% 2009	165	+	3.23	3.47
173	157	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172½	+	3.28	3.49
142	129	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141	+	3.32	3.51
152	137¾	Treas IL 2½% 2016	151 †	+	3.38	3.56
146	131	Treas IL 2½% 2020	145	+	3.43	3.58
122	109¼	Treas IL 2½% 2024	120 xd†	+	3.43	3.56
120	108	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	119 xd†	+	3.43	3.57

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Branson battle for film seats

WHATEVER else Richard Branson may have received for Christmas, he didn't get planning permission from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea to increase the number of screens and seats at Virgin's MGM cinema in Fulham Road.

The Environment Department planning inspector has dismissed an appeal by MGM Cinemas that the council had acted improperly when it failed to determine the planning application within the prescribed time limit.

Branson wanted to increase the number of screens from five to eight, and the seating capacity from 1,455 to 2,186.

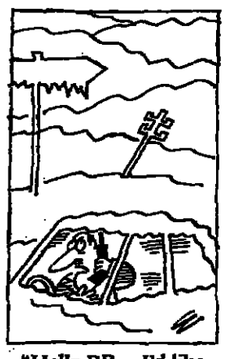
However, that would have involved demolishing the adjoining former South Kensington Squash Club, says the *London Weekly Times*. MGM Cinemas, it adds, is consulting lawyers about a possible appeal to the High Court.

Getting together

IT'S THAT *time* of the year for giving, receiving ... and getting engaged. Against a background of City revelry yesterday, the vivacious Glenda Boswell and man-about-town Trevor Bass told me of their engagement — of their respective firms, Boswell Partnership and City Financial PR. The new name will be Boswell-City Financial Partnership.

Out with a bang?

KPMG assures me that its *FT* advert just three days before Christmas was no joke. It recorded that the joint administrative receivers were offering for sale College Crackers, a Christmas cracker maker, and, together or separately, its division making retail display decorations known as Robiedex.



"Hello BP — I'd like some warm Sahara gas please"

Lit up again

ERNIE THOMPSON is again enjoying the full glory of his huge office in Forbes House, the opulent London HQ of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. And if you hear him singing *When the lights go on again, all over the world* ... here's why.

The society's chief executive watched with alarm as bulbs popped one by one in the spectacular crystal chandelier over his desk and the gloom became so deep he had to send for maintenance staff.

Unfortunately, so many of the 50 or so bulbs had gone, it took staff nearly two days to replace them.

Thompson says: "I had no idea just how big that chandelier was. They were up there for so long, I thought I would be sitting in the dark for the rest of my time at the SMMT."

And, finally, City Diary's call for readers to name a perfume for British Airways has brought two suggestions from the Far East. One says: "It should be Volée (flight), and should NOT smell of those horrible hot towels." The other says: "Having on several occasions endured the noxious aroma of sewage which pervaded the aircraft on landing at Hong Kong, I think the most appropriate name should be Hong Pong."

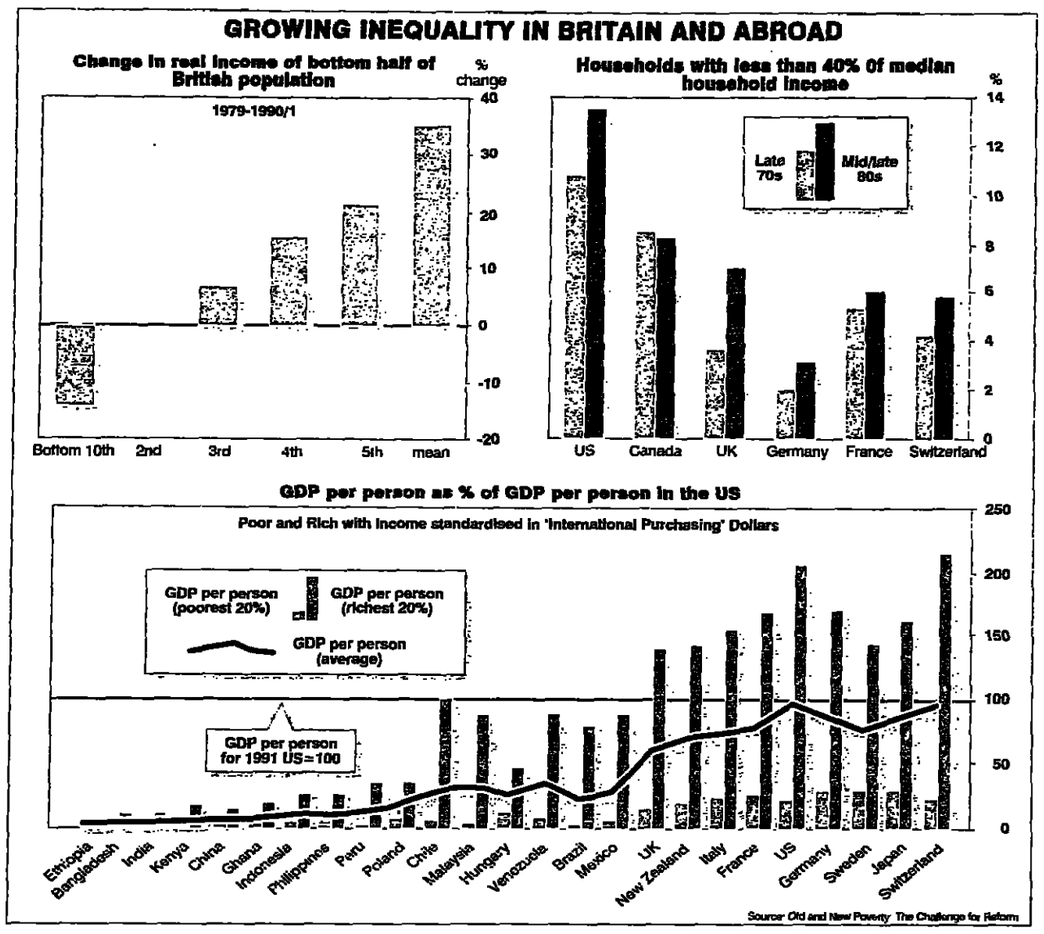
COLIN CAMPBELL

ECONOMIC VIEW — JANET BUSH



Nowhere to run as nations succumb to poverty trap

Britain had the sharpest rises in poverty and income inequality in the 1980s



There is something wonderfully provocative about parliamentary committees that makes even the most battle-hardened politicians and businessmen shoot their mouths off and live to regret it. We may all have become thoroughly jaded about the cradle of our democracy but these committees have a knack of showing people in their true colours.

Remember the famous appearance by Iain Vallance, chairman of British Telecom, who said he envied the working hours of a junior hospital doctor; or Bank of England Governor Eddie George's loss of public cool when he accused the Treasury Select Committee of baying for the blood of his staff after the collapse of Barings?

Even Kenneth Clarke, the nice bloke who believes in public services and little Midlands engineering firms, had an outbreak of apoplexy before Christmas. Asked by the Treasury committee about the effect of his Budget on the poorest 10 per cent measured by income (the tenth decile as it is known), he said this group drove him up the wall. Many of them, he asserted, had very good accountants.

Underlying the Chancellor's unfortunate remark is a society-wide embarrassment about growing inequality and the apparent permanence of poverty even in the richest societies. It is not just Conservatives who are guilty of parading their ineffectualness in the face of society's economic extremes. Jack Straw, Labour's Shadow Home Secretary, misinterpreted his own party's drive for the middle ground by launching an attack on beggars, winos and squeegee merchants, an outbreak that helped, along with female quotas, to lose him his place on the National Executive Committee.

Some experts go to enormous lengths to dismiss poverty as an issue. Richard Pryke, in a pamphlet for The Institute of Economic Affairs, argued that official poverty statistics are grossly misleading, one of his arguments being that leisure time is not properly valued.

He disputes the common view that losing one's job makes one more unhappy. An official survey of unemployed showed that 34 per cent of those who lost their jobs were unhappier, compared with 13 per cent who were happier. Among those who then found jobs, 44 per cent were happier and only 12 per cent became less happy.

Not satisfied with the glaring obviousness of this, Mr Pryke invites us to look at it in a different way. Two-thirds of those who became unemployed did *not* become less happy and 56 per cent of those who then got jobs did not become any happier. This, he concludes, means that a majority of the unemployed place a significant value on their leisure. Is it not possible that people did not become happier when they got a job because they were badly paid and remained just as worried about being laid off again? Britain and other rich societies just do not know how to deal with mass unemployment and entrenched poverty. Indeed, solutions seem further off than ever as governments try to limit social spending and rely on greater labour market flexibility.

Leading economists in Germany say that the country could do with a good dose of Thatcherism to expose industry to the discipline of the market and erode the generous benefits afforded by the social security system. France's panoply of social and industrial protections is under the severest pressure because of the drive to meet the Maastricht criteria.

It is worrying that continental economies want to emulate the Anglo-Saxon free market economic model for it is America and Britain that have seen the greatest increase in income inequality and poverty.

Roger Lawson, senior lecturer in social policy at the University of Southampton, writing in a new collection of essays under the auspices of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation called *Old and New Poverty: The Challenge for Reform*, defines poverty as households with a disposable income of less than 50 per cent of the average disposable income in each country.

According to this definition, almost one in five of non-elderly households in the United States fell below the 50 per cent poverty line by the second half of the 1980s under Reaganite free market policies.

In studies both by the European Commission and the Washington-based Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Britain has the distinction of having experienced the sharpest increases in poverty and income inequality in the 1980s. Between 1979 and 1990-91, the average real income of the bottom tenth of households (after housing costs) fell 14 per cent, a figure surely not achieved by accountants alone, whereas the richest tenth saw a 50 per cent increase. Overall, average household incomes rose a real 36 per cent.

> "New poverty is passed like a fatal gene from one generation to the next"

The disease is spreading. The Commission found that in the 12 countries of the European Union, the number of people in poverty increased slightly between 1975 and 1980 from about 38.6 million to 39.5 million. It then jumped to about 43.9 million by 1985 and a recent, rougher estimate (which includes the former East Germany) suggests that, by the early 1990s, the number has jumped again to some 50 million.

One of *Old and New Poverty*'s editors, Klaus Funken, differentiates between the kind of poverty in which people fell temporarily on hard times, somehow slipping through the social safety net, and the almost permanent kind of poverty which has resulted from mass unemployment and been exacerbated as the frontiers of the State have been rolled back. This new poverty is passed like a fatal gene from one generation to the next, the children of unemployed parents being far more vulnerable to unemployment and poverty themselves.

In the past, poverty used to hit older people particularly hard but that has improved a great deal. In Britain, the number of old people living on social security fell 25 per cent between 1974 and 1991. But, over the same time, the number of children under 16 dependent on benefits has quadrupled.

There is, even in a successful economy such as Germany, a brutal kind of centrifugal force, flinging people to the extremes of affluence and poverty. Over the past 20 years, economic growth has risen by more than 70 per cent in real terms in Germany but the number of poor has more than doubled in the same period. The concept of solidarity has almost disappeared from our vocabulary. Society includes some and excludes others and it is difficult to see how to break this down.

Clearly, a re-expansion of the welfare state is not a runner. This would not only be economically unsustainable but ineffective at including the excluded. The Conservatives have, along with the other parties, been groping slowly towards other structural ways in which economic exclusion can be eased: a changing balance between benefits and taxation, more subsidised child care, greater provision of training and a drive towards better educational standards.

But it is likely that these measures, even if useful at the margin or in the longer-term, will be rendered meaningless if Britain continues to pursue the tactic of frightening the workforce into accepting low wages and our European neighbours are tempted to emulate the approach.

Therein lies insecurity on a scale that destroys incentives and has ensured that the "feel-good" factor is missing from the current British recovery. As Chris Pond, of the Low Pay Unit, puts it: "Uncertainty is the enemy of flexibility. Without protection of their employment and living standards, people are less willing to take risks and accept change."

Mr Pond quotes two great Conservatives on the subject. In 1909, Winston Churchill said that "decent conditions make for industrial efficiency and increase rather than decrease competitive power". In 1946, Harold Macmillan welcomed the fair wages provision as "the protector, certainly of the standard of living of the workers, but also of the standards of competence and honour of industry as a whole".

Messrs Clarke and Straw would do well to forbid themselves the indulgence of prejudice and panic in an admittedly difficult economic climate the world over and remember such common sense from an earlier time.

Old and New Poverty: The Challenge for Reform. Rivers Oram Press. Paperback price: £9.95.

US holds key to NatWest's global plans

Richard Thomson finds that time is of the essence for an ambitious bank

With the sale of NatWest Bancorp last week, National Westminster Bank has finally pulled out of retail banking in America. It will also have more than $3 billion burning a hole in its pocket and it seems certain that a chunk of that will be ploughed back into the US.

For although NatWest has left the high streets, its ambitions in America remain immense. Its aim is to build NatWest Markets, its securities and money markets operation, into a "bulge bracket" investment bank competing with the likes of Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley. This is the key part of a global strategy to make NWM into a leading world investment bank. The success of this global ambition depends crucially on success in the US.

"We want to be prime service providers to international investors because the world is moving into an era of a few globally dominant securities houses," explains Peter Hall, the head of NWM in America, who is responsible for ensuring that the bank's ambitions are realised. "To do that we have to be in the top tier of global investment banks. There's no point being in the second tier because you have much the same cost structure but nowhere near the same revenue flows. With this aim in view, the US is strategically the most important part of NWM's growth. What we do in the US, more than either the UK or Asia, will determine whether we become a top-tier investment bank."

> "There is no point being in global banking's second tier"

NWM's prospects for growth in America are better than for most other British and European banks.

With a staff of 1,100 active in securities, corporate finance and derivatives, the jewel in its crown is the equities business which was built up around a core of people taken from Drexel Burnham Lambert when that firm crashed a few years ago. It is now the largest foreign-owned equity broker on Wall Street, and the thirteenth largest in the New York stock market.

"This is the most difficult and expensive part to get right," says Mr Hall. But he thinks they have finally done so, with the equities operation expected to produce "good money" this year. NWM has a thriving derivatives and swaps business as well as a strong foreign exchange and treasury operation, and it is the market leader in the US in financing real estate trusts. Its weakness is fixed-interest bonds.

A month ago NatWest bought a small US corporate finance boutique, Gleacher & Co, for $135 million to beef up its corporate advisory business. "To optimise the profits from our equities business, we need more of primary business flow, such as new and secondary share issues," says Mr Hall. "Before Gleacher, we didn't have an effective executive capability. Now we're seeing a significant new deal flow." The purchase of another smallish corporate finance operation remains likely, although NWM may build its corporate finance team by cherry-picking individuals from other firms.

Another key area that NatWest is likely to target is investment management. Growing organically in this field, particularly for a foreign institution, would be considerably more difficult than buying a US fund management firm. Moreover, NWM is likely to move fast. The move towards consolidation into a few global investment banks is gathering pace. "In the game being played out in the international capital markets, time is of the essence," Mr Hall says. "Anyone who doesn't follow through their strategy with determination risks being marginalised."

To some observers in America that is already happening to BZW, once the strongest of the big UK banks in America. And since its virtual collapse and takeover by Swiss Bank Corporation this year, SBC Warburg's strong showing on Wall Street appears to have faded.

This leaves NWM as the emerging British front-runner. NatWest's strategy, however, is fraught with dangers. To become a leading investment bank will be a complex and expensive process. NWM is probably correct in thinking that the investment banking universe is shrinking to a few globally powerful firms. Time will tell if it succeeds in becoming one of them.

BUSINESS LETTERS

No evidence of British Gas chief misleading committee

From Mr Peter Sanguinetti

Sir, Mr Falconer (Business Letters, December 22) is entitled to his opinion on British Gas. But he cannot be permitted to justify it on the basis of errors of fact.

British Gas's chief executive did not mislead the select committee. Each question raised by the committee was answered fully and frankly in writing and verbally before and during both hearings. Mr Falconer should read the committee's report. He will find no evidence of the committee being misled. On British Gas long-term contracts, the following facts may assist him.

☐ Fifty-five per cent of these contracts were signed before British Gas was privatised in 1986 with a statutory monopoly and a legal obligation to supply the market up to 25,000 therms, specified in the Offer for Sale prospectus as lasting for 25 years, that is to 2011.

☐ Ninety-seven per cent were signed before the President of the Board of Trade announced in December 1993 that competition would be introduced into the whole of the domestic market by 1998, well ahead of the MMC's recommended date and 13 years before 2011.

Gas contract renegotiation has happened in the US, Canada and Western Australia. Likewise, renegotiation is inevitable in the UK.

Yours faithfully,
PETER SANGUINETTI
(Director of corporate affairs),
British Gas,
152 Grosvenor Road, SW1.

Southern Electric offers a gem of new share gen to stakeholders

From Mr Geoffrey N. Dence

Sir, I have a small holding of shares in Southern Electric, and I have received a 40-page document informing me of a dividend, a special dividend, an allocation of National Grid shares, and the consolidation of Southern Electric's share capital.

It contains this gem: "The basis of calculation of the share capital consolidation is that the expected market value of each new Southern Electric share immediately following the share capital consolidation should be as close as practicable to the value each existing Southern Electric's share would have had prior to the payment of the special dividend (in each case after excluding the value of the NGG distribution), and the proportion of the issued share capital of the company held by each shareholder following the share capital consolidation should be, as far as practicable, remain the same. Other than in respect of its nominal value, which will change from 50p to 53$^{11}/_{93}$p, a new electric share will carry the same rights as an existing Southern Electric share."

Such should not be allowed to blush unseen.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY N. DENCE,
The Firs, East Grimstead,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Telecoms regulator's crossed lines

From Sir Kenneth Warren

Sir, The grand title of the telecommunications regulator, Mr Donald Cruickshank, is "The Director-General of Telecommunications". From his recent edicts, he appears to believe that therefore his job is to run the telecom services in the United Kingdom. Why else could he believe that he can require British Telecom to warn its competitors, in good time, so that they can counter new services BT wants to launch (December 22)?

Surely, the civil servants in the Department of Trade and Industry did not give Mr Cruickshank to understand this was to be his remit so that, indirectly, they could still meddle, post-privatisation?

To aid his cause, Mr Cruickshank has rallied three Acts of Parliament. To one of these I commend his careful attention, the Act which set up his office, in which he will find that his principal duty is to act as a catalyst to look after the public as customers. Regulators are not "responsible to no one", as one of his fellow regulators stated recently. All are responsible to defined Secretaries of State, who are, in turn, responsible to Parliament.

Thus to push his plans before the Monopolies and Mergers Commission would be an unwarranted nonsense as the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry would be forced to be judge of both the result of the inquiry and the actions of his appointee.

BT may not have acted with sound political wisdom at home in 1995, but in my experience abroad none of its competitors from other countries has to face competition from their own Regulators seeking to determine their world-wide marketing potential.

BT's customers, employees and shareholders must not be subjected to such stupidity. Over to the Secretary of State and Parliament!

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH WARREN,
Woodfield House,
Goudhurst,
Cranbrook, Kent.

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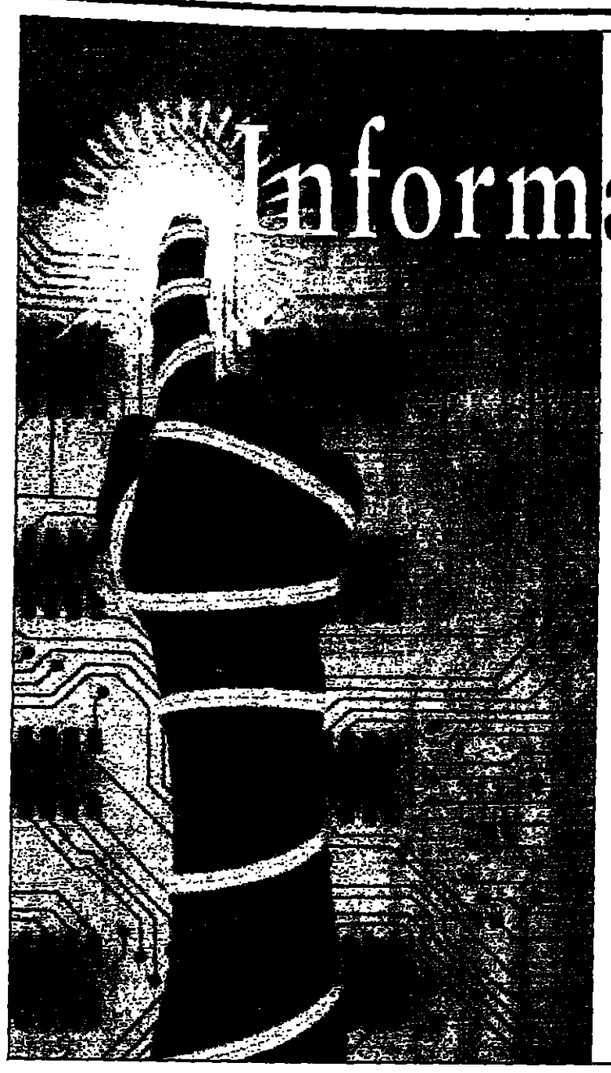
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APPOINTMENTS CONTINUES ON PAGE 34.

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Represented on the Board of The Hunt Museum Limited are the University of Limerick, Limerick Corporation, the Hunt Family, The Hunt Museum Trust, Shannon Development and the Limerick business community. It also enjoys the support of the Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht and the Office of Public Works.

The Board of the Museum is seeking a person with experience in museum or arts administration, possessing good management, communication and marketing skills.

The new Director will have the necessary professional knowledge, drive, flair and the ambition to develop the museum to its full potential. The appointment will be made on a contract basis with a remuneration package which reflects the responsibility of the position in a museum of national importance.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae together with any supporting relevant material to: - The Secretary, The Hunt Museum Limited, GPA House, Shannon, Co. Clare before 5.00p.m. on Tuesday, 9 January, 1996.

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■ CHOICE 1

Frolic with Michael Frayn's Offenbach rewrite, *La Belle Vivette*

VENUE: In repertoire at the London Coliseum



■ CHOICE 2

A Viennese whirl for Denis Quilley in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus*

VENUE: Today, tomorrow at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS



■ CHOICE 3

Lesley Joseph leads thespians and sportsmen in *Dick Whittington*

VENUE: Now at the New Victoria, Woking



■ TURKEYS

The worst night at the opera? Henze's *We Come to the River* was a stinker on an epic scale

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

LA BELLE VIVETTE: The Coliseum's *colourful Christmas romp* is deftly directed by Ian Judge with a script by Michael Frayn and music by Offenbach. Lesley Garrett and Neil Archer take the romantic leads (Janis Kelly and Thomas Randle at some mats), and James Holmes conducts.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Thurs, 7.30pm.

WIHAN QUARTET: The Wigmore returns from its Christmas break with a *musical powerhouse*: Prague's Wihan Quartet was discovered in 1991, when it carried off top prize in the London String Quartet Competition. Judge for yourself where they fall in our current golden age of string quartets. They play Schubert, Mozart and Dvořák.
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

DIE FLEDERMAUS: Robert Tear, Judith Howarth, Amanda Thane, Bonaventura Bottone and Denis Quilley are among the cast for two concert performances of Johann Strauss's *comic tale of Viennese intrigue and romance*. James Lockhart conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Today, 3pm. Fri, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

LIVERPOOL: As the new year approaches, *the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra* hosts a Viennese evening of its own: Edward Warren *conducts and Margaret* Richardson is the soloist.
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789). Tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: The Contact has put together another in its long line of action-packed shows for children as young as four. This year, an adventure in a magic *forest bursting with eccentric* woodlanders: **Hansel and Gretel**, of course.
Contact, Oxford Road (0161-274 4400). Today, 2.30 and 7pm. Until Jan 13.

SNAPE: Pianist Nikolai Demidenko returns to Snape for a grandly romantic programme, including Chopin's *Grande Polonaise Brillante* and Schumann's *Études Symphoniques*. Tomorrow's family concert features Alec Roth's *The Big Wash Cycle* (with short spin).
Concert Hall, Suffolk (0728 453543). Today and tomorrow, 3.30pm.

WOKING: **Dick Whittington** boasts a starry cast, lots of lasers, glitter and glamour, plus a talking cat. With Lesley Joseph, Rosemarie Ford, Kriss Akabusi and Robert Duncan.
New Victoria, Peacocks Arts Centre (0483 761144). Today, 2.30 and 7.30pm. Until Feb 4.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Hellenistic World: Art and Culture (0171-636 1555). **Hayward**: Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945 (0171-928 3144). **National Gallery**: Gods in Love: the Carracci Cartoons Restored (0171-747 2885). **National Portrait Gallery**: Richard and Maria Cosway (0171-306 0055). **Royal Academy**: David Hockney Drawing Retrospective (0171-439 7438). **Tate**: Colin Self, The Art of War 1939-45 (0171-887 8000). **V & A**: Jain Art from India, Back of the Envelope: famous art and design scribbles (0171-938 8500). **Whitechapel**: Emil Nolde (0171-522 7888).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◩ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

◩ **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**: Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm, *most mats sold out*. Until Jan 13.

◩ **THE DUCHESS OF MALFI**: Anastasia Hille plays the beleaguered *heroine in Cheek by Jowl's new* production. In London for a month during its world tour.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Rd, WC2 (0171-369 1746). Now previewing, 7.30; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Opens Jan 2.

□ **FUNNY MONEY**: Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce. Charlie Drake *excellent as a sorely-tried taxi-driver*.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

◩ **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm; Sat, 8.15pm; mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 5pm.

◩ **JOLSON**: The highs and lows of the *singer with with a monster ego*. Brian Conley belts out the songs enjoyably and Sally Ann Triplett is an impressive Ruby Keeler.
Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

■ **A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**: Elegant and successful production by Sean Mathias *of Sondheim's Swedish* charmer. Judi Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sian Phillips and Lambert Wilson among the stars shining in the night.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Mon, 7.15pm, mat Sat, 2pm.

□ **PRIVATES ON PARADE**: Tony Slattery plays the irrepressibly camp *entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy* with music, set at an Army Camp Party in Malaya in 1948. Paul Clayton directs.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

□ ***RUPERT STREET LONELY HEARTS CLUB***: English Touring Theatre's production of Jonathan Harvey's thoughtful and passionate play: set in an east London bedsit where most of the characters have love troubles.
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-839 4488). Tue-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7pm; mats Sat, 4pm and Sun, 3pm.

◩ **THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE**: A witty evening of song, dance and *sketches to do with William S*. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5.30pm.

◩ **THE TOWER**: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is *worth a visit nonetheless*. Sinead Cusack plays the sex-mad and murderous queen.
Almeida, Almeida St (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Sat, 2.30pm.

□ **THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS**: *Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad* in the now annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed, Sat, daily in week of Dec 26, 2.30pm.

LONG RUNNERS

◩ **Buddy**: Strand (0171-930 8800). ◩ **Communicating Doors**: Gielgud (0171-494 5530). ◩ **Fame: The Musical**: Cambridge (0171-494 5083). □ **Five Guys Named Moe**: Albery (0171-369 1730). ◩ **Indian Ink**: Aldwych (0171-416 6003). ◩ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909). ◩ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665). □ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238).

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre. **Availability at time of going to press; check box office.**

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD** (PG): A toy Indian figure comes alive. Restrained and imaginative version of Lynne Reid Banks's children's stories, with Hal Scardino and Litefoot. Director, Frank Oz.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 915 574)

CURRENT

ANGELS AND INSECTS (18): Procreative games in Victorian England. Handsome but still drama, with Mark Rylance, Patsy Kensit and Kristin Scott Thomas. Director, Philip Haas.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **MGM Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030)

◆ **BABE** (U): Glorious, vivacious family film about a sheep-herding pig, with a *cast of talking animals*. Director, Chris Noonan.
Barbican ◩ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Empire** ◩ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◩ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **GOLDENEYE** (12): Pierce Brosnan twinkles as the new James Bond. A rip-roaring thriller with a sense of humour, with Sean Bean.
Barbican ◩ (0171-638 8891) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0171-792 3332)

LA BELLE ET LA BETE (PG): Revival of Cocteau's enchanting version of *Beauty and the Beast*, with Jean Marais and Josette Day.
Everyman ◩ (0171-435 1525) **NFT** (0171-928 3232) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (15): Actors struggle to mount *Hamlet*. Overmanic comedy from Kenneth Branagh, *with Michael Maloney, Joan Collins*.
Barbican ◩ (0171-638 8891) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

◆ **MURDER IN THE FIRST** (15): Flashy but absorbing Alcatraz drama, *with Kevin Bacon, Christian Slater and* Gary Oldman. Director, Marc Rocco.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◩ (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***POCAHONTAS*** (U): Strangely dull slice of American history: a backward step for Disney cartoons after *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*.
Barbican ◩ (0171-638 8891) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◩ (0171-437 4343)

◆ ***THE SANTA CLAUSE*** (U): Divorced dad becomes the new Santa. Bland family comedy with a human face, *featuring Tim Allen*.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0171-792 3332)

SISTER MY SISTER (15): Modest chamber piece about a stifling French household. With Joely Richardson, Jodhi May and Julie Walters. Director, Nancy Meckler.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561)

◆ **THE SWAN PRINCESS** (U): Wizard *threatens wedding of Prince Derek and* Princess Odette. Bland animated fairy tale. Director, Richard Rich.
MGM Trocadero ◩ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◩ (0171-792 3332)

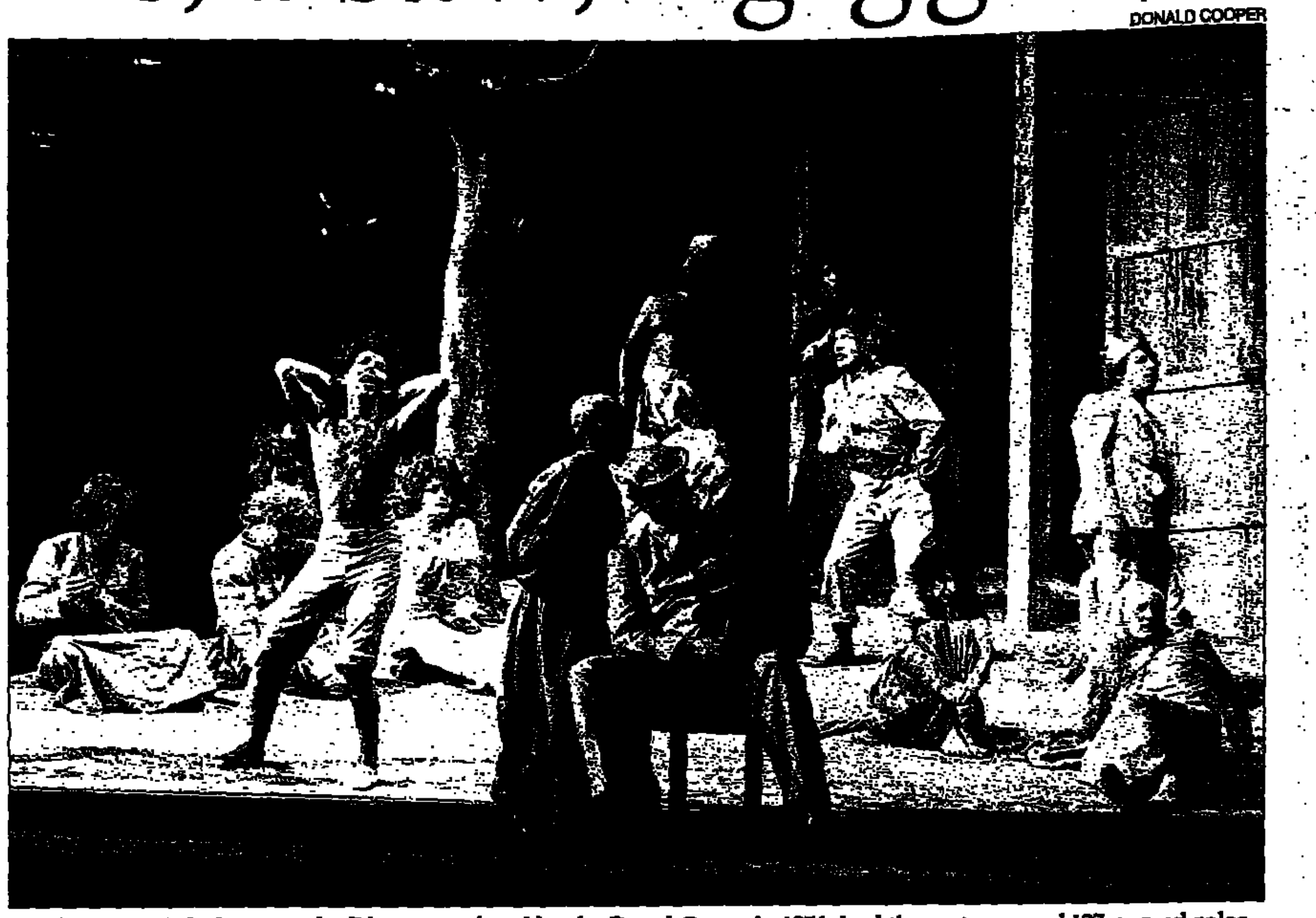
◆ **THREE WISHES** (PG): Hobo spreads wisdom in the American suburbs. *Dawdling romantic fantasy* directed by Martha Coolidge, with Patrick Swayze and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio.
MGM Trocadero ◩ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** ◩ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **TO DIE FOR** (15): Delicious social satire about a television weather girl's murderous lust for glory. Gus Van Sant *directs Nicole Kidman and Matt Dillon*.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Mezzanine** ◩ (01426 915683) **Warner** ◩ (0171-437 4343)

FAMOUS DEBACLES: **Rodney Milnes** recalls Henze's *We Come to the River*

I came, I saw, I giggled

DONALD COOPER



Epic turkey: *We Come to the River*, premiered by the Royal Opera in 1976, had three stages and 127 named roles

As Benedict Nightingale wisely observed when launching this series: "When it comes to awfulness, musicals are in a category of their own." And what are operas but musicals cubed? Which makes isolating an operatic turkey a dour undertaking: as Frankie Howerd remarked, it's cruel to mock the afflicted. However truly awful a new opera, the spectres of good intentions, of thousands of man-hours, not to mention many more thousands of pounds, are there to rattle their chains and prick your conscience.

There was Ginastera's *Bomarzo* about the life and hard times of a homosexual hunchback dwarf — surely piling it on a bit — at the Coliseum in 1976. It was like being buttonholed by the worst kind of pub bore, but you had to admire the energy and commitment of the young Graham Clark in the title role.

Or Philip Glass's *The Making of the Representative for Planet 8* (1988), also at the Coliseum, for me an evening of matchless horror, but there are people I respect who believe Glass to be the most important composer of the century. Again, one's heart went out to singers such as Lesley Garrett and Andrew Shore, who worked their socks off (in vain) to try to bring it to life.

We all have our list of what might be called "Arts Council operas", dutifully commissioned, dutifully performed, and instantly forgotten. They might include ... no, no, it's cruel to mock the afflicted. So my gaze turns cravenly to turkeys that might turn out to be swans, such as Richard Rodney Bennett's Conrad-based *Victory* (Covent Garden, 1970). Known in the trade, oh so wittily, as "Defeat", it was not judged a success, but memories of it, not least of the young Anne Howells in the female lead, have haunted me ever since, and in an operatic climate healthier than ours it would long since have been revived. Bennett certainly knows how to write for the theatre, and his operatic silence since *Victory* is much to be mourned.

So the focus tightens inexorably on a turkey that, if it was one, was at least a turkey on an epic scale — Henze's *We Come to the River*, commissioned by the Royal Opera in 1976. Of course it wasn't a turkey pure and simple: Henze is a prolific and successful opera composer, and the libretto was by Edward Bond, a prodigiously gifted playwright. But circumstances alone conspired to point it at least in the general direction of turkeydom.

To begin with, these "Actions for Music" — nothing so bourgeois as "opera" for Henze and Bond — were performed on three stages, one built out over the orchestra pit. There were three orchestras dotted about, two culled from the London Sinfonietta, one from the Royal Opera House.

There was also a large military band and 127 named roles, shared out between more than 70 singers (what can it all have cost?). One result was that every British singer of note (and quite a few not) can rightly claim in programme bios to have sung at Covent Garden. Do I remember Felicity Lott as "Young Girl 3"? No, actually, but the programme says she was there.

Whenever two or three of them are gathered together, *River* stories fly, and having had an aisle seat I can vouch for the truth of one of them. About 30 Girls and Ladies in exquisite Edwardian garden-party attire had to exit through the auditorium, improvising like fury, one of them giving many a gracious Queen Mother wave to the stalls as she blithely trilled: "Money back on your way out, money back on your way out."

The sheer logistics of *River*, quite apart from the difficulty of performing Henze's music, have meant that it has sunk from view. The Royal Opera never revived it; there were a handful of productions in Germany, and one in America in 1984. I suppose you have to admire its creators' refusal to compromise, even if it doomed their work to obscurity. That lack of compromise extended to the text: twice, separate actions were performed simultaneously on each of the three stages — there was not the slightest chance of their being understood. Frequent double-actions stood a better chance, but not much.

> **❛ I suppose you have to admire its creators' refusal to compromise ❜**

The irony of all this is that *River* marked the culmination of Henze's communist phase. In a much mocked collective programme note — "schoolboy Marxism" sniffed Hans Keller — he and Bond noted the exclusion of the lower orders from culture, and maintained that "in our age the artist must help to create the image and consciousness of the working class". The reaction of any member of the working classes — whether they still existed in 1976 is open to debate — witnessing this uncompromisingly elitist spectacle can only be imagined.

What was the Royal Opera doing commissioning it? Those were, of course, the days when we all revelled in post-imperialist guilt, and invited the Great Wave of opera producers from East Germany to come and lecture us on how dreadful we were, squirming (some of us) with guilty pleasure at the results.

Here, Bond's massively correct action tells of a victorious general who goes blind, and in the process comes to see the enormity of the imperial system he supports. He is put in an asylum, and killed by the inmates. A Fascist governor is assassinated; countless victims are destroyed. All is presented in simplistic class-war terms: the ruling classes are pitch black, the working classes whiter than next week's improved detergent (up to a point Comrade Copper). War is a bad thing (gosh!), lunatics alone are sane. Children help to launch the slow march of triumph at the end. As the veteran German critic H.H. Stuckenschmidt wrote: "The yawning abyss of kitsch opened up."

Listening to *River* again after 20 years I was struck by two things: the theatrical power of the music with which Henze fleshes out Bond's parable, and the superb diction of the 70-plus singers. Yet it was the quality of the music that drew from Keller the most withering condemnation of the opera and its composer: "The human tragedy is not bad people (a negligible minority) but good people who have given away (not sold) their consciences to a collective ideal." Ouch.

I suppose in the end *River* was a turkey. It was heroically impractical. It was dated even then — Henze's use of *The Eton Boating Song* as a symbol of what's wrong with the world really was fighting the last century's battles — and the class war had been won and lost. It would be unkind to suggest that the verbal references to the Greek colonels and assorted Fascist regimes could as well apply (we now know) to Henze's beloved Cuba.

But it is hard not to be nostalgic for a time when people held beliefs, when people thought about something other than next week's lottery numbers. I'm certainly nostalgic for a time when a top-price Covent Garden stall cost £6.30 (my ticket stub fell out of the programme). It's not just the lower orders who are excluded from culture now.

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■ FILM 1

A child and a lost banknote are the main items in a heart-warming Iranian movie, *The White Balloon*



■ FILM 2

. . . while the life and awakening love of a pizza chef provide the material for the intriguing *Heavy*

THE TIMES FILMS
ARTS



■ FILM 3

Ken Loach's *Land and Freedom* is one of Geoff Brown's movies of the year



■ FILM 4

On this day, 100 years ago, the Lumière brothers opened the world's first paying cinema

RADIO

Only one box had vision

TALK about a season of comfort and joy. The phrase might have been composed for radio types at Christmas, a time when we are prone to a superior sniff through the television listings in search of reasons to cry bah, humbug! Phrases such as "a feature-length episode of . . ." and "a special Christmas edition of . . ." litter the listings like pine needles, proving that television is a wasteland of unoriginal programming.

Whereas radio . . . radio on Christmas Day, to take a f'r instance, behaves as if intelligent life were still functioning. Radio 4 even has bulletins read by proper newsreaders. All right, I don't know what happened to the news editors. On Christmas morning the news was led by the Royal Family gathering without Princess Di, followed by half of Scotland being buried under snow. Southeastern bias? You said it.

But then came real programmes. **Lashings of Ginger Beer** at 10am was a gem in which children sampled the fare in children's books. After that, the Beeb even had the nerve to start a new series, **Walters' Festive Frolics**, in which John Walters took all the standard requirements of Christmas to Majorca only to find that Majorca had them on sale already.

And so on and so forth. The evening highlights were a terrific production of **Private Lives** starring Imogen Stubbs and a surreal 15 minutes of Spike Milligan poetry in **Spike's Fleas, Knees and Hidden Elephants.**

The point about these programmes is that they are not, for the most part, predictable. The point about their television equivalents is that they are. I know that in television the stakes are higher, that risk-taking could amount to job-risking. And, yes, I know that BBC2 and Channel 4, the so-called minority channels, do go for originality. But who decided that sit-com, film, sit-com, film, film was the only scheduling rhythm we would dance to?

What radio proves every Christmas is that television would do us all, and itself, a favour if it took a few chances.

PETER BARNARD

Geoff Brown on new films and the pick of '95. Plus the Lumières' big day, a century ago

Mesmerised by simple sights

One hundred years ago to the day, cinema started its life as a regular spectacle for paying customers (*see David Robinson, below*). In the intervening century it has grown into the world's most pervasive medium for art and entertainment. It can inspire and embody dreams like no other. It can also flatten people's sensibilities and make the globe look like Hollywood's backyard.

Technology has taken cinema far beyond the boundaries faced by the early pioneers. But once in a while, a film comes along so simple and direct in its appeal that you feel something of the amazement that must have struck the Lumière brothers' first patrons. A film, in fact, like Jafar Panahi's **The White Balloon.**

This small but mesmerising work hails from Iran, although it should appeal to people from any country where children are children and banknotes can disappear between the slats of a pavement grating. Seven-year-old Razieh badgers her mother into giving her money to buy a plump, pretty goldfish with dancing fins for the new year celebrations on the first day of spring. A few steps outside her home, she almost loses the money to snake-charmers. The note then drops on to the pavement, to be blown down the grating by a motorbike's exhaust. With the help of rods, chewing gum and passing adults, can Razieh retrieve her money before the pet shop shuts for the long new year holiday?

Panahi's prizewinning first film unfolds in real time, so we soon come to share the girl's struggles and fears, touchingly played out on Aïda Mohammadkhani's sulky face. A protégé of Abbas Kiarostami, one of cinema's most humane directors (and the deviser of the film's script), Panahi already displays the master's knack of handling amateur actors and distilling the poetic essence from daily life.

The camera adeptly follows the girl and her banknote through Tehran's shady alleyways and bustling streets; but it excels even more at standing still, patiently watching the drama unfold, just like Lumière's cinematographe. In one particularly delicious scene, a lonely soldier on leave



The sands of time are slipping away fast as little Razieh (Aïda Mohammadkhani) struggles to retrieve her lost banknote in *The White Balloon*

joins Razieh in her vigil by the grating. He sits, starts talking and offers a sweet. She looks wary, primly spreads out her skirt and fiddles with her fingers, anxious for help but mindful of warnings about meeting strangers.

Moral questions keep poking through the girl's adventures. She should not have stopped at the snake-charmers, a kindly woman says. Razieh knows, but "I wanted to see what was not good for me". When the same woman says she will mollify Razieh's mother by explaining that it was not her fault the banknote was lost, Razieh asks plaintively: "Whose fault is it?"

But Panahi and Kiarostami's human understanding prevents them blaming anybody. All — harassed shopkeepers, a young Afghan balloon seller, Razieh's father snapping orders off-screen — are embraced for what they are: faults, virtues, the whole bundle. Finding a film with such a generous heart and simple beauty, we can face our own new year fortified.

Heavy is another antidote to most new releases. This is an American independent film, a first feature by James Mangold. But there is no pastiche, no flashing of guns and hardboiled dialogue, no itch to be the new Tarantino. The pace is slow, at times almost painfully so. And Pruitt Taylor Vince's central character, Victor, pizza chef at Pete and Dolly's Restaurant, a truckstop dump in upstate New York, lacks all glamour. He is fat and imprisoned by intense shyness: instead of talking, he nervously observes the world through hurt, roving eyes. To add to his handicaps, his domineering mother Dolly — Pete is long gone — is played by Shelley Winters.

The White Balloon
Renoir, U, 85 mins
Simple and touching gem from Iran

Heavy
MGM Haymarket, 15, 104 mins
Slow but absorbing American indie

As it happens, Winters is not quite the drawback that observers of her later career might expect. Mangold has tamed the appetite for chewing scenery. This is a low-key film, and Winters's querulous bleatings slot into place in a chamber symphony of conflicting voices. There is Callie, the aimless college dropout played by 17-year-old Liv Tyler (a name to watch), who gets work at Pete and Dolly's and stirs Victor's dormant passions. There is Delores, the world-weary waitress: a good role for the tarnished beauty of former pop icon Deborah Harry. Aside from Victor, two other men hang around the women: a bar fly and a garage mechanic. Uninterested in complicated plot mechanics, Mangold simply lets these forlorn people rub against each other and watches the ripples spread when the uneasy calm of Victor's life is disturbed.

Mangold came to his feature debut after a frustrating brush with Hollywood. A student film secured him a one-year stint at Disney, where he was removed from directing a television film and helped to turn *Oliver Twist* into a meandering, forgotten canine cartoon, *Oliver and Company*. Fingers burnt, he retreated to film school and developed *Heavy* under Milos Forman's guidance at Columbia University in New York.

Like Forman's early Czech films, *Heavy* empathises with its vulnerable characters. But Mangold ploughs his own furrow. It is a narrow one at the moment, and he is taking risks by asking modern audiences to accept a drama without obvious thrills; often, indeed, without dialogue. But patience brings its rewards, and anyone not immobilised by Christmas pud should find refreshment in the film's calmness and sensitivity.

If *Heavy* sounds too gloomy for the festive season, you can always amuse yourselves by trying to construct a 1995 Top Ten film list. The year may have been short on outstanding achievements, but a sizeable number of stimulating films still passed by. Few came from mainstream Hollywood, although *Little Women* worked wonders with Louisa May Alcott, and *Nobody's Fool*, Robert Benton's slice of small-town Americana, deserved far wider exposure.

Otherwise, this was the year of the mavericks. Tim Burton made *Ed Wood*, a moving and uproarious tribute to the man crowned the world's worst film director, Edward D. Wood Jr. Bryan Singer leapt to new prominence with *The Usual Suspects*, a fiendishly scripted crime thriller. Gus Van Sant bounced back with *To Die For*, Tom DiCillo returned with *Living in Oblivion*. And in *Hoop Dreams*, Steve James, Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert produced a documentary film with the breadth and detail of that elusive beast, the Great American Novel.

Luckily there is more to life than Schwarzenegger's muscles or Kevin Costner's ego, although increasingly you need to live close to London to discover this. The best foreign films not showing at your local Odeon included Zhou Xiaowen's *Ermo*, Wong Kar-wei's *Chungking Express* and Aki Kaurismäki's *Take Care of Your Scarf, Tatjana*. Intense pleasures have also come from Tunisia (*The Silences of the Palace*), Iceland (*Cold Fever*) and Italy (Michael Radford's *Il Postino*). From the Antipodes came two contrasting delights: *Babe* and Peter Jackson's impressively mature *Heavenly Creatures*.

The saddest aspect of the year's moviegoing has been the vacuum at the centre. We desperately need good popular films that entertain without playing down to audiences, that move beyond bloated special effects and pop-video frenzy, films that believe in people and stories and life itself. Too often film-makers and audiences sell themselves short: was cinema really invented just so we could watch Sylvester Stallone snarl?

My own Top Ten? In alphabetical order: *Babe*; *Chungking Express*; *Cold Fever*; *Ed Wood*; *Ermo*; *Hoop Dreams*; *Land and Freedom*; *Take Care of Your Scarf, Tatjana*; *The Usual Suspects* and *The White Balloon*. These are not, by and large, the year's most popular films or even the greatest. Yet they touched my heart and made me glad to be a film critic.

CONCERT

Viols in winter

Fretwork
St John's

THE title of Fretwork's "Wild Winter" programme was taken from the main item in the programme, the first London performance of Thea Musgrave's *Wild Winter*. Fretwork has actively sought works by living composers who have found inspiration in the sound world of the viol consort.

Musgrave's work is based on a mosaic of text, from wide-ranging sources and in different languages. The title and main theme are drawn from Wilfred Owen's *1914*, extracts from which form the prologue, reprise and coda to the piece, interspersed with a series of laments on the savagery and destruction of war.

A vocal quartet (Lisa Tyrell, Paul Agnew, Andrew Murgatroyd and Colin Campbell) are supported and complemented by the viols in discordant accompaniments and dramatic interjections that boast wild harmonies.

While the Musgrave is an extended, at times impenetrable, piece, Sally Beamish's *In Dreaming*, a setting of Caliban's speech from Act III of *The Tempest*, is an atmospheric but detailed miniature. Tenor Paul Agnew and Fretwork gave a superb account of a brilliantly conceived work that builds on musical allusions to Tippett and Purcell.

This was all the Purcell we were allowed, however. All year Fretwork has championed the music of William Lawes, one of Purcell's immediate predecessors. Both the *Consort Sett a 5 in G minor* and his poignant tribute to his friend and colleague John Tomkins, *Musick, the Master of thy Art is dead*, are masterpieces, the consort revealing an imagination that called for light playing from Fretwork, the lament full of searing but controlled dissonances. Consort music by Gibbons and Jenkins completed a rewarding programme.

TESS KNIGHTON



The reel anniversary, probably

In a Paris cellar on December 28, 1895, cinema was born. Or was it?

By common consent rather than historical justification, today marks the official centenary of the motion picture. On December 28 1895 the Lumière cinematographe went on show to a paying public in a basement below the Grand Café in the Boulevard des Capucines, Paris.

The 30 or so people who bought tickets and joined the invited guests descended a narrow staircase and pushed their way through velvet curtains to the Salon Indien, a small room with a hundred café chairs placed in rows in front of a white screen. Behind them, the cinematographe, a neat little machine which could serve as camera and projector, was mounted on a wooden trestle and screened by curtains, as much to drown its sewing-machine racket as to conceal its technical secrets.

The show lasted less than 20 minutes with ten one-shot films. The audience was thrilled to see photographs in movement: workers leaving the Lumière factory, traffic in the streets, waves splashing against a pier. Within a week, police were needed to control the queues. Soon, more than 2,000 people a day were paying one franc to see the cinematographe. The only loser was the landlord of the Salon Indien, who had cautiously insisted on a rental of Fr30 a day rather than the 20 per cent of the receipts the Lumières proposed.

Remarkably, neither Louis Lumière, the inventor of the cinematographe, nor Auguste, his brother and collaborator, was in Paris for this historic premiere. The shows were entirely the idea of their father, Antoine. Louis wrote to the engineer who made the machine: "My father tormented us with wanting to give shows in Paris, but we have decided to keep out of it."

The serious-minded Louis and Auguste saw their cinematographe as an interesting scientific advance. Antoine, bon viveur and friend of music-hall artists, must take credit for being the first to see the entertainment potential of movies.

The Lumières, however, were not the first to make moving photographs: the Edison Kinetoscope had achieved that in 1893, though the pictures were seen by individual viewers in a peepshow device, not projected onto a screen. Throughout 1895 many other inventors in America and Europe were experimenting with machines to project the Kinetoscope images. The cinematographe itself was patented ten months before the December 28 show, during which time the Lumières had already given demonstrations for photographic and other societies.

Nor, as is often claimed, was the Lumières' December show the first before a paying audience. In May 1895 there were public film projections on Broadway, New York; and on November 1 the Skladanowsky Brothers showed their Bioscop projector at the Wintergarten, Berlin. The results may have been less satisfactory than the cinematographe; but the public came, paid and marvelled.

So why do we celebrate the Lumières and December 28? Perhaps because the French are better at commemorating national glories. Already in 1925 and 1935 they enthusiastically celebrated the 30th and 40th anniversaries of the cinematographe. The Government formally dissociated itself from the 50th, however, since the Lumière brothers had disgraced themselves during the war that had then just ended: Louis was decorated by the Vichy government, while Auguste was a member of the notorious collaborationist Legion Volontaire Française.

These indiscretions led to the abandonment of their portrait on a French banknote this year. Just the same, the world continues to commemorate Antoine's lucky show.

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Andrei Navrozov urges caution as KGB archives reveal the full extent of Stalin's manipulation of the intelligentsia

The strange death of literary Russia

By any criterion this book is an event in the historiography of world culture. The value of the extensive research, which it abstracts, into the literary biographies of Russia's martyred writers is quite absolute and impossible to misinterpret. Yet like the unprecedented research itself, the publication of these literary discoveries is a political event as well, and one whose significance in today's world is far more ambivalent.

Circumspect and selective as the opening of KGB archives to scholars has been, in the West it has been greeted with a fundamentalist enthusiasm that is often based on sheer semantics: the opening of a Lubyanka file is akin to the opening of a Moscow McDonald's. For the native sceptic who wishes to caution the West not to fall for spurious analogising, the abiding difficulty is that just as fast food is indeed fast, so each newly opened file is indisputably an eye-opener.

For the generations of Russians brought up on clandestine readings of forbidden or neglected writers, everything miraculously preserved in the time capsule to which the author's "Commission for the Literary Legacy of Writer-Victims of the Repressions" were given access in 1988 is a revelation, be it a lost variant of a Mandelstam poem or the last photograph of Nikolai Klyuev. But the time capsule has yielded more than mementoes and epiphanies. Entire works, such as Klyuev's epic *Song of the Great Mother* and Andrei Platonov's *Technical Novel*, have now been exhumed and published.

Of still more universal interest is the historical aspect of the commission's haul. Most scholars, both Russian and in the West, have continued to treat the Stalin era in ways made acceptable by Khrushchev during the political spring which he brought about as the requisite climate for his struggle for power. It is only now, for instance, as John Crowfoot concedes in a note to this book, that "Khrushchev's personal approval in 1962 for the publication of Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*" can be seen for what it was, "a striking instance of the manipulation of literature for political purposes". As Khrushchev's reputation as a disinterested re-

THE KGB'S LITERARY ARCHIVE
The Discovery of the Ultimate Fate of Russia's Suppressed Writers
By Vitaly Shentalinsky.
Harvill, £18

former undergoes revision, so the precepts of historical analysis he foisted on historians with respect to Stalin begin to crumble.

The consensus has been that Stalin was a bloodthirsty maniac who played hit-and-miss with his foreign policy as irrationally as he gambled with the lives of millions at home. Yet so long as the pursuit of earthly power is acknowledged as a rational aim, Stalin's 30-year quest for global power must mark him as one of the truly innovative empire-builders of all time. That this modern Caesar nearly drowned Russia and half the world in blood during those years should not blind historians to the utterly rational and supremely shrewd stratagems he employed in the prosecution of his personal goal.

This volume offers fresh reminders of Stalin's skill at outfoxing intellectuals. When Maxim Gorky, whom Stalin used as the engine for the Union of Soviet Writers propaganda machine, had to be drawn to Moscow from his Sorrento villa, a special home for delinquent children was set up in Russia to correspond with him. "For each of my letters I receive 22 from them," marvelled the touched writer. A few years later the secret police, out of "concern for the old man's peace of mind", would print single copies of national newspapers for him.

As the episode of Stalin's 1932 *postanovleniye o perestroike* (Decree on Restructuring) illustrates, he played the intelligentsia like a fiddle. Oppressed during the preceding 15 years of Bolshevik rule, the intellectuals, he had calculated, would run to him for protection. The KGB archives show that only a few, notably Mandelstam, demurred. The rest, from Pasternak to Prokofiev, seized the "new freedom" they thought was on offer. The stage was set for the 1935 Paris "anti-fascist congress of writers", whereupon "all progressive mankind" allied itself with Moscow.

It remains to be seen whether Gorbachev's *perestroika* and the subsequent "fall of Communism" — with which the careful "new openness" of the KGB elite is politically linked — owe more to the spirit of Stalinist deceptions than today's intellectuals would care to concede. Do historians understand Gorbachev's motives any better than they did Khrushchev's? What new empires are contemplated by Russia's future rulers with the help of their conscience-striken, yet ever burgeoning, secret police?

Andrei Navrozov has just completed a biography of Boris Pasternak.

Tales told by an idiot of genius

Lesley Chamberlain

DOSTOEVSKY
The Miraculous Years, 1865-1871
By Joseph Frank
Robson Books, £27.95

A WRITER'S DIARY
Volume II, 1877-1881
By Fyodor Dostoevsky
Quartet, £25

Dostoevsky's life changed when in 1865, beginning *Crime and Punishment* but still virtually unknown, he proposed to his stenographer Anna Snitkina. At 20, she took on one of the world's most difficult men. I am vile, Anna, he would say, prostrating his 44-year-old body at her feet. He neglected her and he gambled. Almost immediately they fled Russia for Wiesbaden to escape his creditors. The intended brief stay turned into six years of peripatetic isolation and homesickness in Germany and Switzerland. The miracle of these wretched years is that, between bouts of epilepsy, and despite the death of their first child, he went on writing. By day he read the Russian press in cafés. By night, he finished *Crime and Punishment*, wrote *The Idiot* and began *The Devils*. In between came two great novellas, *The Gambler* and *The Eternal Husband*.

The Dostoevskys, desperate to return home, finally did so in 1871 to spiralling fame. In 1873 he began writing a column in a journal, *The Citizen*, and three years later began a one-man monthly review, *A Writer's Diary*, which exerted an immense influence on public opinion until his death in 1881. The *Diary* was halted for two years while he wrote his final novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, and the two works share many themes.

The novels are more accurately compendiums of flash-lit dramatic scenes; their single obsession authenticity. Human actions shadow and echo one another. Characters spout the same sentiments with vastly different moral incentives. Some seem to know truth by divination, others follow the bandwagon of intellectual fashion. The quest for authenticity — and perhaps its existential impossibility — leads to absorbing "double" constructions and devious polyphonies. It proceeds in one man's heart in *Crime and Punishment*, becomes a social problem in *The Idiot* and a political one in *The Devils*. The two characteristic factors, poverty and a study of the law, which encourage Raskolnikov to juggle free will and moral responsibility at the expense of an old woman's life, hang over an oeuvre obsessed with crime, and ultimately the crime of murder.

The first complete English edition of *A Writer's Diary* has now been translated by Kenneth Lantz. Its editor, Gary Saul Morson, emphasises that Dostoevsky was both the chronicler of abysmal spiritual travails and a character suffering them. His novels show the disastrous consequences of putting an absolute theory into practice and believing in one thing or nothing. *A Writer's Diary*, though it was a useful vehicle for fiction and comment, found its true popular character when Dostoevsky sounded off as a national prophet, decrying foreigners and Jews. He hailed Russia, embroiled in Balkan wars, as successor to Imperial Rome and Byzantium.

For many years *A Writer's Diary* has been an embarrassment to Dostoevsky studies. Frank reminds us of a famous quarrel Dostoevsky had some years earlier in Baden-Baden with Turgenev over whether fanaticism was a necessary characteristic of a Russian writer. Turgenev was pilloried in *The Devils* for his "18th-century" moderation.

So the aesthetic and moral and national strands of Dostoevsky's difficult oeuvre weave together. There is a desperate casting about for non-utilitarian values which would be at once Christian and Russian and respect the unpredictability of human nature and the accidental quality of material events. It becomes impossible to judge crime. In the *Diary* and *The Brothers Karamazov*, Dostoevsky richochets between praising individual responsibility and dismissing the guilt of premeditated crime: for how can a man know when he picks up a potential weapon that his aim is to commit murder?

This is what post-modern Christianity will look like, surely. Dostoevsky is an alarming prophet of Western chaos: to me, his world view spells deep moral trouble, which his art does not enlighten. I disagree with Frank that its power is universal and undiminished. But I accept Frank's view that Dostoevsky's craving for Christian love proceeded from the deep disturbance of the mock execution he faced as a young man, and his subsequent hard labour in Siberia. Prince Myshkin, the "Idiot", observed that a condemned man lost even the dignity of strugging for life. Dostoevsky's sense of dignity was probably never restored.

In its place came furious assertions of "free will". The desperate desire to gamble in casino and cosmos also had an erotic tinge. Frank thinks Dostoevsky may have been impotent with Apollinaria Suslova, the mistress before Snitkina who inspired the fiery Nastasya Filippovna in *The Idiot*.

You have to read Dostoevsky, alas. Nietzsche and Freud, Conrad and Virginia Woolf all did. He is the genius who has done most to illumine 19th-century Russian psychology and to make the terrifying problems of atheism and nihilism part of the modernism we still grapple with. Frank's magisterial five-volume study of his life and work, of which this is the fourth, salutes the grandeur of Dostoevsky's project, his devastating exposure of the intellectual debate tugging at the roots of Judaeo-Christian morality, and his imaginative power of elevating social realism to a tragic plane.



Group portrait of writers (1920), from *The Salon Album of Vera Sudeikin-Stravinsky* (Princeton, £50), a palimpsest of St Petersburg. The artist, Sergei Gorodetsky, sits in front. Left to right: Valerii Briusov, Fedor Sologub, Alexei Remizov, Viacheslav Ivanov, Alexander Blok, Mikhail Kuzmin, Andrei Bely, Konstantin Balmont

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Scavengers for the sublime

Marc Jordan

KINGS AND CONNOISSEURS
Collecting Art in 17th-century Europe
By Jonathan Brown
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We are so used to the idea of Old Master paintings as a prime cultural commodity, enshrined in public galleries or fought over in the saleroom, that it comes as a surprise to learn that this high status and the activity itself of collecting old paintings dates back not much further than the beginning of the 17th century.

Before that era, the collecting of old art objects and the prestige it conferred on the owner was largely confined to Greek and Roman sculpture, coins and medals. Vast accumulations of old paintings built up over generations in churches, monasteries and palaces, particularly in Italy. But these had been ordered new, directly from the artist, and it is this that distinguishes patronage as an activity from collecting.

The idea that one individual could in the space of a few years form by purchase a collection of hundreds of choice paintings by the most famous artists and display them in a gallery context seems to have been pioneered in England by Charles I and a handful of intimates known as the Whitehall Group. They had opportunities to buy quality in bulk that had never existed before, mainly because of the political and economic decline of the Italian states. Buying the best pictures on this scale was chiefly for princes and great noblemen.

Yet for much of the century prices were lower than for many other luxury items. It is an eye-opener to learn from this book, which is based on Jonathan Brown's Mellon lectures at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, that Charles I's sister, Princess Elizabeth, owned a court dress, the gold and silver lace on which was worth more than any but the most expensive canvases by Raphael or Titian in his collection.

As Prince of Wales, Charles had before him the example of Lord Arundel, who collected Italian paintings with the same care and discernment that he brought to buying Classical sculpture. But Professor Brown suggests that Charles was more influenced by the fast-moving acquisitiveness and flashy taste of his father's young favourite, the Duke of Buckingham. In the half-dozen years before his murder in 1628, Buckingham filled his London house with more than 400 paintings, including Titian's great *Ecce Homo*. Among those that got away from this insatiably acquisitive man was the *Mona Lisa*, which Louis XIII refused him as a memento of a trip to Paris.

The upwardly mobile Buckingham bought Old Masters to flaunt his new wealth and social status. For Charles, collecting was an integral part of the magnificence that went with 17th-century kingship. It was also a genuine passion: he shone in art politics as he never did in the real thing. He got off to a good start in 1623 when he persuaded Philip IV of Spain to give him Titian's *Pardo Venus* and *Charles V with a Hound*. But, as Brown drily points out, Philip could spare them, having inherited the largest group of works by Titian ever owned by a single individual.

Charles also bought on an unprecedented scale, most significantly in 1627, when he spent £16,000 on the bulk of the collection of the impoverished Gonzaga Dukes of Mantua, who had been patrons of Mantegna, Raphael, Giulio Romano, Correggio and Titian. He found himself the owner of a hoard that included Titian's *Entombment*, Raphael's *Holy Family* ("La Perla"), Correggio's *Education of Cupid* and Caravaggio's *Death of the Virgin*.

The English Civil War brought an end to the legendary collections of Charles I and his circle. Under the Commonwealth the royal collection was put up for sale to pay the Crown's debts, and throughout the 1650s the surviving members of the Whitehall Group or their heirs also sold off their art works in order to live. England's loss brought huge benefits to princely collectors elsewhere in Europe, and Brown's story continues with studies of the courts of Spain, France and Flanders. Not even in the aftermath of the French Revolution was such a quantity of Old Masters released onto the market in such a short space of time: the sale of Charles I's collection alone put 1,570 pictures into circulation.

The chief beneficiary of this diaspora was Philip IV of Spain. With the advice of Velázquez and the discreet operations of his ambassador in London, he creamed off the best of the pictures, thereby contributing to the rapid growth of a collection that was by inheritance and accumulation already the biggest and best in Europe. The other major collector of the later 17th century, Archduke Leopold William of Austria (Governor of the Spanish Netherlands), swallowed up wholesale the best paintings belonging to the heirs of the Dukes of Buckingham and Hamilton, nearly 400 in all, the latter including Giorgione's *Three Philosophers* and Tintoretto's *Susannah and the Elders*. Equally avid, but not quite in the same league, was Cardinal Mazarin of France, though he did buy the *Pardo Venus* and Correggio's *Venus, Cupid and Satyr*.

Alongside the princes and magnates, Brown introduces us to a whole sub-culture of experts and dealers, pawnbrokers, go-betweens, restorers and fakers — the distant ancestors of the modern art trade. Among them are Sir Dudley Carleton, much-put-upon English Ambassador to Venice, forced into the art trade when left with an unpaid-for consignment of pictures on his hands after the fall from grace of the Earl of Somerset and Balthasar Gerbier, the dubious ex-painter and self-styled expert who helped to form Buckingham's collection; the ubiquitous Daniel Nys, a Flemish dealer who negotiated the Gonzaga purchase for Charles I, then ruined himself in an attempt to play off the King of England, the Queen of France and the Holy Roman Emperor against one another: and the fabulously rich Paris banker Everhard Jabach, who sold his collection to Louis XIV and was later accused by a rival of trafficking in fakes.

This is an important book for anyone who is interested in the interaction of art, politics and the marketplace, the appetite of collectors and the ingenuity of dealers, or even just in the curious migrations of masterpieces. And, being American, the author is mercifully free from any sentimental regrets that most of the best of the Whitehall Group's pictures now grace the Prado, the Louvre and Vienna's Kunsthistorisches Museum, instead of the National Gallery.

LAUROS-GIRAUDON/BRIDGEMAN ART LIBRARY



Anthony Van Dyck's portrait of Charles I hunting (1635) was sold after the Civil War and is now in the Louvre

Piebald but still a nation

ERICA WAGNER

"We are a nation of parvenus," Lewis Lapham writes of America, "a mixed and piebald company". This is just as true now as it was in the 17th century, when a country that scarcely imagined it might become a nation arose in what was called the New World.

Lewis Lapham's analysis of that nation has been entertaining and enlightening his fellow citizens for many years. As editor of the monthly *Harper's Magazine*, he casts a baleful eye across the cultural plain, offering up his often wry and sometimes scathing opinions. His latest collection of essays, **Hotel America: Scenes in the Lobby of the Fin-de-Siècle** (*Verso, £19.95*), is a disturbing portrait of a nation in fear of its ambiguous future.

WITH the end of the Cold War, Lapham says, America was no longer able to view itself as a star shining out against the dark background of communism. Turning to its own ills — it's the economy, stupid — has given rise to a culture of blame. Lapham points out that the present's idea of the past is a simplification too: true democracy "isn't supposed to be easy".

Lapham's portraits of his country are astute, and his dry wit is as sharp as a knife. He is not unbiased, but he has little time for the certainties of either Left or Right.

The subject matter of some these essays — the details of the Clarence Thomas/Anita Hill case, or Whitewater — might at first strike the British reader as obscure. But as portraits of democracy in decline, there is nothing obscure about them. Whatever the qualities of American civilisation, there is no doubting its influence, and Lapham is among its wisest interpreters.

هكذا من الاصل

Lost rhymes by the parson of Grimes

John Bayley hails a major poet's rediscovered story in verse of a girl's infanticide and feigned madness

THE VOLUNTARY INSANE
By George Crabbe
Richard Cohen, £12.99

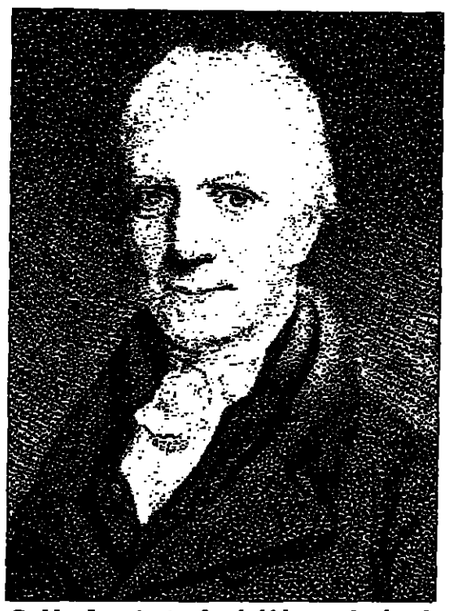
The strain of living in an age of reason and of literary decorum made some of the most talented 18th-century English poets if not positively mad, then at least highly unconventional in the ways they lived and wrote. However different they are from each other, Blake, Cowper, Collins and Christopher Smart certainly share this ability to disconcert the reader: and these were modes of poetic utterance which were far from fashionable at the time.

George Crabbe (1754-1832) is not like that. As rational as the next man in powdered wig and breeches, a down-to-earth satirist and grim social observer, his only form of excess was the opium habit; and that was so common and so well-concealed in the polite society of the time that not many of his acquaintances became aware of it. But his wife went mad; he failed to get the preferment that was his due; and he lived a sombre life in his rural Norfolk parish, comforted by the practice of writing verses about the harsh and struggling lives that he observed around him.

"I sing the cot / As truth will have it and as bards will not", he claimed in one of his charateristically dry and forceful couplets. *Peter Grimes*, written like the rest in verse as orthodox but as descriptively vivid as Pope's, is the most famous, as it is the most powerful, of the tales that make up *The Borough*. For Crabbe did achieve fame of a sort, even in his lifetime. Dr Johnson approved of him; he influenced Wordsworth and the other Romantics; he was respected by Byron, who twice commends him in his own poetry. Jane Austen says in a letter that she would have liked him for a husband. She was being flippant, no doubt, for it is hard to imagine her being married to anyone, let alone Crabbe, but it shows how highly she prized an intellect and a sensibility which, in its powers of dramatising daily life, was not so very different from her own.

Crabbe got to know Sarah Hoare, bluestocking daughter of a rich Quaker banker who lived in Hampstead. Hoare knew all the poets of the age as well as the politicians; and Sarah and her stepmother appointed themselves as nurses and muses to Crabbe, cheering the parson poet and judging the compositions he submitted to their scrutiny. At their house he met Wilberforce, Maria Edgeworth, Mrs Siddons, and other luminaries; Wordsworth too visited the Hoares when he was in London.

Sarah may well have kept manuscripts of Crabbe which she and her fellow judges did not consider quite the thing, as Jane Austen would say. Among these unpublished survivals in the Hoare Notebook is *The Voluntary Insane*, a long poem on the theme of madness, now edited by Felix Pryor, who engagingly describes himself as "earning my living by discovering manuscripts", and who is descended from Sarah Hoare's sister.


Crabbe: Jane Austen fancied him as a husband

With the natural pride of a successful explorer, Pryor claims that this newfound poem is "George Crabbe's masterpiece". This is going rather too far. By contrast not only with such powerful narratives in *The Borough* as *Peter Grimes* and *Ellen Orford*, but also with Crabbe's other published "mad" poems like the vivid and hallucinatory *Sir Eustace Grey*, *The Voluntary Insane* seems to me commonplace enough. If, as seems possible, Sarah Hoare tactfully put it by, this may have been because she thought it below the poet's usual standard, as well as for the reasons suggested by its discoverer: possible shockingness, and indiscretion where Crabbe's wife was concerned.

In his narrative of an unfortunate girl who lets herself deliberately decline into madness after a baby in her care has died, Crabbe is in fact more earnest and pious than shocking. The metre does not suit him, and the words lack the sardonic grip, the visionary intensity and grim humour of his best work in couplets.

On the other hand, as the editor rightly suggests, the subject itself has a clinical fascination for modern ears, as have the autobiographical implications. Crabbe's wife appears to have exhibited much the same symptoms as the poor girl in the poem, perhaps for the same reason: four of her six children died young, and she may have affected madness as a shield against guilt or blame. No wonder Crabbe's benefactress thought it best, as well as more discreet, to lay the poem away in a drawer.

Yet it is certainly a work of considerable interest, not only for Crabbe-lovers; and it is presented here in a sensible and elegant edition. As poetry, its level can reasonably be appreciated by the the final stanza.

'Twas Eventide — the flocks were penned
And Shepherds whistled o'er the Lea;
But e'er that Summer Night had End
The Maid was from Life's burden free.
Alone she died; no Eye could see
The Signs without of Thoughts within —
Judge not — thine own Temptation flee.
Nor parley with the Strength of Sin —

Fluent rather than inspired — those whistling shepherds are all too conventional a property of the age — it nonetheless reveals Crabbe's keen and clinical eye for the sadness of things.

The more powerful section of the poem analyses the progress of the girl's malady, from natural kindness (hugging children "she seems to feel the Peace she makes") to harsh indifference. And this has all the sombre force of Crabbe at his best.


Another Italian self-portrait: in 1924 Brancusi photographed himself at work on *Endless Column* in his studio (in Elizabeth Bowen's *Brancusi Photographs Brancusi*, Thames & Hudson, £12.95)

World-besotted sex tourist

Alain de Botton

USES AND ABUSES
By Aldo Busi
Translated by Stuart Hood
Faber, £14.99

READING Aldo Busi is akin to being cornered by a garrulous, egotistical, sarcastic, clever but often very funny man with an urgent wish to regale you with every detail of his recent trips abroad. Busi has travelled to most corners of the globe, apparently in order to write journalistic pieces about which we hear very little and cannot quite imagine. What we do hear about are Busi's feelings towards the countries he visits, which are largely negative ones, though never as negative as those he reserves for his native Italy. Interspersed with reportage are reminiscences of Busi's childhood, his thoughts on the meaning of life, and an explicit recollection of his homosexual exploits.

Busi must have generous employers, because he invariably gets to stay in the smartest hotel in town, always raids the mini-bar (he is very good on the topic), and does not seem to have much work to do. He gets sent to Reykjavik along with a photographer whom he hates, refuses to talk to and nicknames Candid-Camera. After spending most of his time in the hotel or a nearby bar, he finally decides to interview the President of Iceland, Vigdis Finnbogadottir. Charmed by her, he skips all mention of politics. (Iceland has no problems anyway, judges Busi, not next to Italy), and asks her where she gets her clothes from. Paris, she answers, but begs him not to write this, since she has recently flattered a journalist from *Bunte* by telling him it was Germany.

Busi next goes off on a Latin American tour, which allows him to indulge his bleak satirical humour to the full. There are sketches of threatening drug barons, collapsing motorways, chaotic cities, incongruously luxurious hotels and appalling squalor and deprivation. Busi travels from Caracas to Bogotá, then to Brasilia and Rio, all the while making the reader feel very glad that he stayed home. Things improve somewhat when Busi goes off to Spain, which he likes, and Algeria, where he has lots of sex. Unfortunately, he then has to go off to South Korea to cover the Olympics, though he hates sport, and then Japan, where no one will talk to him, apart from a brief conversation he has with a Japanese man whom he has accidentally squirted with milk while preparing a cup of coffee on a Bullet Train.

BUSI'S PROSE style has an impatience, energy and bile that sometimes threaten to turn it into a rant. If he is ultimately saved from the charge, it is because he knows when to leaven matters with an ironic touch. "I very much like melancholy persons," he tells us, "for the first five minutes. And I also like timid people — if they are not more than 15 years old."

Nevertheless, when we reach the end of *Uses and Abuses* we are likely to be exhausted and perhaps exasperated by Busi. Despite the book's many charms, it would be hard to recommend placing it too far up any reading list.

Counting cosmic visions

"There was a country where they were all thieves. . . ." Everybody robbed everybody else, until one day an honest man interrupted the cycle, throwing everything into disarray. Italo Calvino wrote *The Black Sheep* in 1943, when he was only 20, and yet as an Italian political allegory its relevance is untarnished. The style of such early pieces is blunt and naive in comparison to his later works; but their ironic moral tone, finely rendered by Tim Parks's translation, still hits the mark. "One writes fables in periods of oppression," he wrote. His predilection for this form lasted longer than Mussolini, as this collection demonstrates.

Numbers in the Dark includes short stories, dialogues and the beginnings of unfinished novels, gathered here for the first time. They span Calvino's entire writing career from 1943 to 1985. In the first section to 1958, covering his years as a Communist Party member, themes of politics and war dominate. *Becalmed in the Antilles* was written in 1957, the year he left the party over the invasion of Hungary, and it satirises the postwar deadlock between the Italian Communists and the Christian Democrats as an encounter in a flat calm between Drake's fleet and the Spaniards. This story preserved its immediacy for a further 25 years.

Harriet Paterson

NUMBERS IN THE DARK
By Italo Calvino
Jonathan Cape, £15.99

This paring-down of intricate situations to the simplest kernel is the exact opposite of the later Calvino who ramifies, questions and complicates even the simplest gesture. Every action, however insignificant, generates infinite associations stretching back in time and space. Turning a tap or releasing a petrol pump diverts Calvino's intense narrative attention down to the subterranean strata from which the water or oil is being drawn. He has become a cosmic visionary, who sees a tree in every splinter of wood, the whole of human history in a lump of ice.

Logical conclusions give way to illogical extremes, an obsession with the *reductio ad absurdum* which can lead to a kind of madness, generating feelings of anxiety and vertigo in the reader. These are then compounded by the apocalyptic conclusions which issue forth from Calvino's notorious melancholy. In 1975 he sees a second ice age threatening, in 1976 the extinction of resources, in 1984 the galaxy imploding.

However, the author does not abandon his reader without offering a lifeline of control. He defies annihilation by writing ceaselessly, creating an inventory of the disappearing planet. This is the exact task of the characters in the 1968 story *World Memory* who must make "a catalogue of everything." The task is impossible but the principle is fortifying. "I've been getting used to imagining the future without flinching," Calvino writes. The precision and lucidity of his prose testify to his steady gaze.

From Welsh wizard to tweedy leftist don

Stephen Logan

RAYMOND WILLIAMS
By Fred Inglis
Routledge, £19.99

"An only life may take so long to climb / clear of its wrong beginnings, and may never." Thus Philip Larkin, with the insight that made foresight sound like hindsight. Raymond Williams's beginnings were not wrong, except in the sense of suggesting possibilities which later life precludes. But the loyalties and allegiances he formed during his working-class childhood in South Wales proved unusually hard to reconcile with the demands of his academic career. Consequently, he suffered from the anguish of inner exile.

He represented this, to others and, apparently, to himself, as a conflict between the wish to live in Wales and the need to work in Cambridge. (He kept homes in both places.) The border country that his childhood home had occupied became for him a potent symbol of his state. He was torn — yet effortfully poised — between two countries and two classes. The endless variety of socio-political phenomena were perpetually resolving themselves, within Williams's fanatic heart, into the elements of a personal conflict.

Williams was born in 1921. His father, Harry, was a railway signalman who became a union branch secretary. It is easy to see here the roots of Williams's romantic socialism. From his father also stems his diligence as a writer (more than 20 books of cultural commentary, seven novels, three plays, and several thousand newspaper articles).

His mother, by contrast, provided him with a pattern of resignation, for on personal matters her husband was an unusually silent man. His decisions — as to the naming of their son, for instance — emerged from a dark private self to which verbal access was denied. As Fred Inglis observes, in a narrative at once acute, scholarly and informal: "Harry lived a deep contradiction between gregariousness and withdrawal which he taught his son." When Williams died in 1988, his death was announced on radio: his work evoked a public response beyond his academic circle.

Raymond Williams was an unusual academic, not least in being regularly described as a seer. There must have been many occasions during his lectures, when he did *not* have his eyes closed, his head thrown back and his words issuing forth in a steady, slightly mystifying meditative torrent. Yet that is how he is remembered by many of those whose testimony is recorded in this vividly documented book — more biographical essay than biography.


Williams (left) with Frank Kermode, Cambridge 1981

Whether Williams actually was a seer, or only looked like one, depends in part on how we answer one question. What was it — among the things which some people count supremely valuable — that Williams is believed to have seen more clearly than most? Those who give an answer in terms of his relations with Marxism divide him from a broader readership. And there seems to me a peculiar impropriety in doing that; for one of the things that Williams undoubtedly saw was the impropriety of any form of public discourse — such as literary criticism — which complacently addresses itself solely to a closed social or professional coterie.

His sympathies were profoundly pro-democratic. If he differed, in his writings, from the generality of intellectuals who defend working-class culture, it was because he flouted factions, including the political ones which tried to co-opt him as a propagandist.

One of the things which gave Williams quasi-heroic status among working-class intellectuals was his belief that high culture was merely a variant of popular culture. Defending the right of popular art forms (such as television) to be taken seriously was clearly a gesture of homage to his parents; and one to which the hearts of many literary left-wingers would return an echo. For all his determination to lecture on films, and to question the scope of the English syllabus at Cambridge, Williams was no stage iconoclast: his practical experience included active service as a tank-officer, followed by 15 years extramural teaching.

I was brought up 20 miles away from Williams, in a similar South Welsh environment. I work in the Cambridge English Faculty, recognise "the sheer bloodymindedness of British academic life" and miss what the mountains represent. Yet, despite these potential affinities, I do not find myself drawn to his writings. The testimony gathered in Inglis's genial and absorbing book suggests that the experience is not uncommon. Ostensibly, the problem lies in the abstract over-elaborations of Williams's style. Yet this in turn emerges from Williams's habit of avoiding introspection.

When, in 1977, Williams suffered a breakdown, he was bent on not understanding it. The attempt at introspection had "stirred some very deep sediments". Williams's response had been to develop a style of deliberate obliqueness, which protected him from his own inward gaze, but estranged him from the class (and maybe the father) he wished to communicate with.

Political convictions derive from personal allegiances. It is the strength of Williams's writings to suggest this, their weakness to flinch from acknowledging it fully.

Revenant in the republic of letters

Giles Coren

BELLE DU SEIGNEUR
By Albert Cohen
Viking, £20

WADING through this immense novel, you may be beset by a single overriding worry. *Belle du Seigneur* is the masterpiece of Albert Cohen (1895-1981), a megalith in 20th-century culture, and a descendant of Balzac and Proust in the francophone tradition of militance against brevity. Whose fault is it, then, that the book is so difficult to read?

It is not the translator's, for David Coward's achievement is as gigantic as Cohen's. Gilbert Adair was assumed to have carried off the year's translating laurels with his edition of Georges Perec's lipogrammatic novel *La Disparition*, but Coward has taken on an equally daunting task. The result is a sparklingly fluid English version full of wit and imagination, that does much to bridge the gap between author and reader.

It is in that gap that the readability problem lies. This is a thousand-page book in which very little happens. First published in French in 1968, and untranslated until now, it gained its "masterpiece" status at a time of great excitement in the francophone literary world, when experimentation and intellectual values were warmly welcomed.

But are we still equipped to deal with a huge plotless monster that expends its creative energy on long interior monologues, subtle political allegory, and microscopic examination of the social pretentions of a disappearing foreign bourgeoisie?

Central to the plot is Solal. He it is who carries the great solipsistic weight of all Cohen's work. For *Belle du Seigneur* is the last in a trilogy of novels that charts Solal's rise from a childhood in the Jewish community of Cephalonia to Under Secretary-General at the League of Nations in Geneva. The first two novels, *Solal* and *Mangeclous*, were published in the 1930s, in a climate still haunted by Proust and dominated by James Joyce. This, the final part, was 30 years in the making, and it shows.

The first third of the novel belongs to Adrien Deume, a grade B minion of Solal at the League of Nations. Deume is *petit bourgeois*, gauche, and covetous of acceptance in the highest circles. As he sits at his desk, pen-pushing and gushing streams of consciousness, it is almost painful to witness his thought processes — his tragic and paradoxical aspirations are so like our own. The miserable human mind deserves more privacy than this.

The great Solal accepts an invitation to dinner chez Deume, and for 100 pages we are subjected to the flusterings of the Deume household as the meal is planned. The menu, printed on fancy little place cards, will have foie gras, caviare, smoked salmon, any number of delicacies obscenely and ostentatiously piled upon each other. Deume's lisping and ineffectual father reads aloud from an etiquette book on how to butter a bread roll and drink from the side of a soup spoon, his mother instructs the hired butler, Adrien prepares conversational fireworks and frets. But Solal, in accordance with the fatalistic drive of the narrative, will not come. And if he did, he would share our snobbish revulsion.

All this is but preamble to Solal's seduction of Deume's wife, Ariane. She leaves her bedraggled bureaucrat for his brilliant and beautiful boss. But, such is the nature of human passion, and such was Cohen's bleak obsession with it, that their love, too, must putrefy. The depiction of the relationship's collapse is miserable and, ultimately, horrific. It is the very opposite of the climax of *Ulysses*. No returns, no reunions, no rebirth.

AND THEN the gloom goes deeper. For this is the life of a European Jew in the 1930s. What hope for the future even if the course of love does run smooth? Solal has, to some extent, denied his Jewishness to reach the exalted social position he enjoys. But his uncles, known as the valiant, self-styled knight-errant defenders of the Solal cause, make several entrances to remind him of his roots. Grotesque, parodic caricatures of lechery, acquisitiveness and vice, they play a strange role, challenging anti-Semitic prejudice by pandering to it so obtusely. In earlier manifestations they were picaresquely comical. Here, as Nazism looms unmentioned on the borders, they are dangerous.

And so the novel rambles on, seldom more than the sum of its parts, never a page turner, but always exquisitely rendered; a strange artefact frozen in suspended animation and then brought to life again in a less self-conscious age. Like so much that came out of that time, it is difficult to pin down, difficult to read, and difficult to ignore.

Cold snap retains hold on fixtures

FROST kept its grip on the racing programme as more fixtures were called off yesterday. The meeting scheduled for Kempton yesterday was abandoned after overnight snow compounded the existing problems with frost, and the four set for today — Carlisle, Plumpton, Stratford and Taunton — had been lost by noon yesterday.

Taunton and Plumpton fell within minutes of each other after early-morning inspections, and were soon joined by Carlisle and Stratford. All four tracks are frozen.

Tomorrow's fixture at Newcastle has also fallen to a combination of frost and snow, and inspections are planned for the day's remaining three meetings. Fontwell and Newbury will inspect at 9.30 this morning, with Warwick's prospects to be decided at 12.30.

There is an inspection at 9.00 tomorrow to check on Catterick's programme for Saturday, and the best hopes of a resumption of National Hunt racing rest with another of Saturday's cards, Folkestone, where there is a light covering of snow but no frost in the ground.

In Ireland, yesterday's meeting at Leopardstown was cancelled and put back to Saturday to replace the scheduled meeting at Punchestown, which, in turn, has been rescheduled for next Wednesday. Prospects for today's meeting at Leopardstown also look bleak. There is a 7.00 inspection there.

Looking further ahead, next Tuesday's meeting at Ayr is already under threat. The Scottish track lost this week's Boxing Day fixture because of frost and the course manager, Mark Kershaw, said yesterday: "There has not been much change and it is still freezing."

Wolverhampton arranges additional meeting for Saturday

Fresh opportunities ease frost's bite

By Richard Evans, Racing Journalist of the Year

OFFICIALS moved with admirable swiftness yesterday to resurrect some of the top races which have fallen victim to a freeze-up destined to continue for the rest of this week.

With severe frost wiping out any racing in Britain for the second successive day yesterday, plans were hatched to stage the lost feature races, in one shape or another, over the next few weeks — with entries for three rearranged or new events closing at noon today.

After a day of hectic discussions, involving the British Horseracing Board's (BHB) race planning department, the Levy Board, sponsors and racecourses, the BHB announced a package of measures to assist racing after the losses inflicted by the extreme weather.

They include an extra all-weather Flat meeting at Wolverhampton this Saturday afternoon, which will be staged in addition to an existing evening meeting at the Midlands track. Entries for the new fixture close at midday today.

Cheltenham on New Year's Day will be expanded to include two races designed specifically for horses aimed originally at the Bonusprint Christmas Hurdle and Castleford Chase, which were lost to the weather at Kempton and Wetherby respectively yesterday. Both races, over two miles, will be limited handicaps with a 14lb weight range aimed at maximising competitiveness — with entries also closing at noon today.

Prize-money for the Peter Ross Novices' Chase at Ascot on January 13 will be increased from £12,000 to £21,000 after the loss of the Tripleprint Feltham Novices' Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day. The race is over a similar distance of three miles.

After the loss of the Coral-Welsh National at Chepstow yesterday, the race scheduled to be run as the John Hughes Grand National Trial at Chepstow on February 3 will be renamed the Coral Grand National Trial with £25,000 added to stakes.

JULIAN HERBERT



The grey Absalom's Lady beating Atours in last season's Christmas Hurdle at Kempton, a replacement for which will be run at Cheltenham

The extra six-race meeting at Wolverhampton this Saturday will go ahead only if sufficient entries have been received by noon today. The extra races planned for Cheltenham next Monday — the Levy Board Limited Handicap Chase and the Bonusprint Limited Handicap Hurdle — mean the eight-race card will start at 11.50am.

According to the London Weather Centre last night, there is no immediate sign of a let-up in the Arctic conditions but BHB officials were taking heart from a forecast of rising temperatures over the weekend. Should the Cheltenham meeting fall to the weather, the Bonusprint Hurdle will be switched to Sandown on January 6.

After the expected cancellation of Kempton yesterday, the King George VI Tripleprint Chase will be the feature event at Sandown on the same day.

Meanwhile, the Matthew McCloy controversy refuses to go away. After the decision by the Racehorse Owners' Association (ROA) to ask the chairman of the BHB's industry committee to consider his position last week, the National Trainers' Federation (NTF) stepped into the fray yesterday.

An election is due to take place next month to fill the vacancy created on the BHB in June when Michael Darnell steps down as one of the three industry committee elected directors.

Nominations for the vacancy are due to close on January 3, with the election planned to take place two weeks later. Despite the controversy surrounding his much publicised flight to the United States, McCloy has been favourite to be elected unopposed.

However, Peter Cundell, president of the NTF, confirmed yesterday his organisation is seeking a delay in the election. "We are recommending to the industry committee that the election is postponed until April. After the letter from the ROA, there is a need for a cooling-off period."

The request for a delay will be supported by the breeders and, interestingly, John Reid, a leading member of the Jockeys' Association, said yesterday that while McCloy appeared to be a good chairman "you would have to question his judgment."

Nielsen's absence costs him funding

By Richard Eaton

ANDERS NIELSEN has been denied funding for the second time by the Badminton Association of England, which means he will have to pay his own way to tournaments until the end of the Olympic Games qualifying period if he is to get to Atlanta.

Nielsen, the national champion, is being punished for again pulling out of a British grand slam tournament without a medical certificate, in this case the Friends Provident Hampshire Open at Portsmouth, which starts today.

When the Surrey man did the same thing in Perth in September, he was denied funding until the end of January, and the extension of this ban for another three months means that by the start of the Games in August, Nielsen will have spent about £6,000 of his own money travelling abroad.

The Association is angered that Nielsen's actions make it impossible for it to promote the British grand slam circuit properly, but Nielsen claims that the floors at Portsmouth are so hard that they constitute a fitness risk. "I'm already paying my own way to the Finnish and Portuguese Opens next month so I can't take a chance with my knees. The floors are a disgrace at Portsmouth and players have written and complained about them before," Nielsen said.

However, Tom Marrs, the Association's events director, replied: "He must be getting desperate. It's the same type of floor as 90 per cent of leisure centres in this country and many top players have played on it without complaint."

Nielsen's increasing rift with his national association suggests that the 28-year-old is going to retire after the Games. Whether or not he actually gets there, however, is very much in question. He is ranked No 40 in the world, 11 places behind Darren Hall, the former European champion, and nine behind Peter Knowles, the Scottish Open champion — and only two Britons can qualify in each event for Atlanta.

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The sport of the future grappling with its past

David Powell looks at the growing pains triathlon is enduring in its struggle for Olympic acceptance



A triathlete leads the 112-mile cycling leg of the Ironman race in Hawaii, with his rivals lining up their challenges in his wake. Photograph: Mike Powell/Allsport

Triathlon was introduced to spectators at an international race in Sydney as "The Sport of the New Millenium". As the first event on the programme at the 2000 Olympic Games in the same city, triathlon will not lack opportunity to give that bold prediction a flying start, but will the swim-bike-run brigade be ready for their grand entrance?

It is 15 months since the International Olympic Committee (IOC) granted triathlon Olympic status within 20 years of the sport's beginnings. The elevation precipitated both celebration and argument. The Olympics wants triathlon but wants it to change.

A well-oiled triathlon machine would be an asset to the Olympics because it does, after all, pull three of the original Olympic disciplines into one. At its best, triathlon can be spectacular and exciting, but often races are predictable. Les McDonald, the president of the International Triathlon Union (ITU), believes that, unless the sport adapts, it may be cast out of the Games as quickly as it was reeled in.

"We are on the programme provisionally," McDonald said. He opines that, to safeguard its Olympic status, triathlon must work on its television exposure, marketing and spectator appeal and, to be successful in those areas, fundamental changes are necessary. "The argument I have heard is that, other than athletics and swimming, all sports are now provisional and you have to prove you are part of the mainstream. You have to prove you are modern."

Led by McDonald, the sport's metamorphosis has begun, though he risks unpopularity among the mass amateur ranks and some professionals for tampering. Ask a club triathlete for an opinion on the most contentious issue in the sport — that of drafting, cycling in a rival's slipstream — and he or she will probably reject it. McDonald, though, was in the vanguard of its introduction into the ITU world championships last season. Some professionals boycotted in protest.

Last month, the ITU legalised drafting for all its events. No longer must competitors keep a specified distance apart on the cycling stage. The decision makes it practically certain that drafting will be allowed in the Olympics. "The ITU resolution ensures that the Olympics will be a draft-legal race," McDonald said. "If we had lost the vote, there would have been no World Cup because television would have lost interest. Non-drafting races are boring."



Smith: protested against change

As if to mark McDonald's point, the ITU negotiated a marketing and television agreement with Pacific Sports and Entertainment (PSE) last week that, according to PSE, will take triathlon "to a different plateau". PSE's main shareholder is The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*, and the deal embraces development of the world championships and World Cup series over the next five years.

"This event is going to be changed to be more commercial and it will be a lot more lucrative for the athletes," Paul Morgan, of PSE, an Australian company that owns Brisbane Broncos rugby league club, said. The World Cup is rivalled by the professional tour, but Morgan suggested that, "over a period of time", it would attract all the leading competitors with superior prize-money.

In the past, the ITU has used sponsorship money to pay for television coverage, but Morgan believes that will change. "Considering that our major shareholder is News Corporation, I expect Star television, Sky TV and Foxtel will be very interested," Morgan said.

Among McDonald's priorities now is "clover leaf" racing, whereby each discipline is held over a multi-lap circuit in a compressed area. "This ties in with the idea of a television spectacular which is spectator friendly," he said. "You cannot watch triathlon if the competitors disappear from view for long periods."

There is a feeling among club triathletes that their sport should not be changed for the sake of greater recognition through television and the Olympics. They endorse the opinion of Spencer Smith, Britain's former world champion, who said: "I came into triathlon when it was an individual sport — swim, bike and run as fast as you can. Now it is not that way. All it is, in effect, is a run race."

It is interference with pure endurance sport and tradition, the argument goes. Drafting favours those strong on the run, the final discipline, because it allows weaker cyclists to slipstream on the second phase. As Simon Lessing, the world champion, from Britain, admitted, though he favours drafting: "If you come off the bike with 40 athletes, which is quite likely, you might just get some unknown, who has been sitting in, win because he is a fast runner."



Competitors struggle to find enough space to swim in a massed start to the 1994 Ironman event

Drafting invites team tactics, which may add to the fascination but, according to Barry Voevodin, a columnist in *220*, the triathlon magazine, makes it vulnerable to "all sorts of *domestique* agendas".

According to Voevodin: "Their job would be to stick with their team buddy in the swim and bring them up to, or keep them ahead of, the bunch. At the conclusion of the cycle, the fresh-legged drafter runs off to victory while the *domestique* walks or jogs the run course as a warm down. To suggest this would not happen is naive."

McDonald argues that judging what is a legal or illegal drafting distance can be difficult and, seeing how sport is increasingly appearing before the courts, such doubtful areas that separate winners from losers should be avoided. The penalty for drafting in races that do not allow it is a "stop and go", putting both feet on the ground before restarting. The image of the punishment worries McDonald, more a Mr Bean sketch than sport. "Spectators ask what he is doing. 'Oh, he's getting off his bike, he's putting his feet down, he's getting back on.' Come on, give me a break . . ."

McDonald is perceived by some in triathlon as an autocrat. He won his age group at the Hawaii Ironman triathlon five times, but the event has come to be his enemy. Hawaii operates outside the ITU, as does the professional tour.



Lessing: will not defend his title

Last month, with the Ironman a target, the ITU hardened its line against events portraying themselves as world championships. Any elite athlete who competes in a "self-declared" world event next year, it said, would be banned from ITU world championships and World Cup races until the end of 1997. According to McDonald, the IOC has demanded that his federation demonstrates its authority. He added that, if the problem persists, athletes could be banned from the Olympics.

Lessing laments the fragmentation. Smith and others boycotted the 1995 ITU triathlon world championships in Cancun, Mexico, in protest over drafting and Lessing does not intend to defend in 1996 because he believes there are too many championships. This issue, and the drafting boycott, are symptomatic of a sport young in years but ageing politically.

Not that Lessing is anti-ITU. Though he competed in the professional tour rather than the World Cup this year, he said: "For me, the ideal situation would be one World Cup series. You cannot fight the ITU. We need the ITU. Our sport is so young, everybody should be trying to work together."

The ITU's attempt to be responsible was evident in Cancun. Having taken the championships to Latin America for the first time, it put on its inaugural junior development camp there. "When we get to the Olympic Games, we have to be able to say these athletes have been developed as triathletes and we have not pinched them from swimming, running or biking," Sarah Springman, the ITU vice-president, said. It decided to no longer stage under-16 championships, not wishing to expose young athletes to intense competition at hot and often humid venues.

Given that drafting increases the probability of the first Olympic champions hinging on the ten kilometre run, should not the BTA be tempting Britain's best runners to try triathlon? Now that Africans dominate, no British man is going to win a medal in Sydney at 10,000 metres.

Andrew Pearson, the European cross country bronze medal-winner, swims and cycles with club riders as part of his athletics training and races ten kilometres two minutes faster than Lessing and Smith. Pearson might consider that his Olympic chances would be be greater in "the sport of the new millennium".

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	20	60	fair	crusty	icy	cloud	-6	26/12
(Mixed conditions after hard re-freeze)								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	20	75	powder	powder	fair	snow	-3	27/12
(Colder temperatures and continuous snowfalls)								
Mayrhofen	5	40	good	powder	closed	fog	-1	27/12
(15cm of new snow on varied base: poor visibility)								
Schladming	40	50	good	powder	good	cloud	-1	26/12
(Great skiing with powdery snow on all pistes)								
Söll	20	65	good	powder	closed	snow	-6	27/12
(Great skiing on and off piste: resort runs open soon)								
St Anton	10	190	good	powder	good	fair	-8	27/12
(Superb powder skiing everywhere: runs a little crowded)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	30	120	good	varied	icy	sun	-10	26/12
(High runs good, lower very icy — sharp edges needed)								
Avoriaz	40	80	good	varied	good	sun	-12	27/2
(More runs now open after new snow: very long queues)								
Megève	5	15	fair	none	closed	sun	-3	27/12
(Skiing still limited but now colder: snow forecast)								
Tignes	75	130	good	powder	good	sun	-11	27/12
(Superb skiing on perfect snow: high avalanche risk)								
Val d'Isère	65	130	good	powder	good	sun	-8	27/12
(Pistes excellent with fresh snow: more runs now open)								
Val Thorens	50	90	good	varied	good	fine	-7	27/12
(Great skiing with new snow: 3 vallees links now open)								
ITALY								
Cervinia	30	200	good	powder	good	fine	-4	26/12
(All pistes in superb condition: 20/25 lifts open)								
SWITZERLAND								
C Montana	0	75	good	varied	closed	fine	-6	27/12
(Upper slopes good, lower hard where skiable)								
Mürren	25	110	good	powder	good	fine	-6	27/12
(Excellent skiing with new snow at all altitudes)								
Verbier	50	120	good	powder	wom	fine	-2	27/12
(Great powder skiing but avalanche danger persisting)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper; art - artificial.

THE TIMES
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Cardiff to make official complaint

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

CARDIFF Devils, the leaders of ice hockey's British League premier division, are to lodge an official complaint about the performance of the referee, Graham Horner, in their Boxing Day win over Nottingham Panthers.

David Temme, the team owner, said: "Perhaps if we had lost, we would have thought twice about complaining, because it would probably have been seen as sour grapes. But we won and, after watching a video of the game, we have to complain."

The Devils had two goals disallowed but Nico Toemen, the British Ice Hockey Association's chief referee, said both decisions were correct. "Graham Horner is one of the best referees in Europe," Toemen said, "but he is not good enough for the prima donna imports in Cardiff who want us to referee the way they want to play hockey."

Cardiff's win enabled them to stay four points ahead of Sheffield Steelers, although the Steelers have three games in hand. Playing the second of three games in four days, Sheffield did no more than they had to and just beat Basingstoke Bison in an excellent game.

They held on 4-3 thanks to an outstanding performance by their goaltender, Wayne Cowley. Tony Hand, who has gained a new lease of life since his move from Edinburgh, was involved in three of the four Sheffield goals and was a constant threat to the Bison.

Blackburn Hawks and Manchester Storm are dominating the first division in much the same way as Cardiff and Sheffield are controlling the premier division. The Storm are two points behind the Hawks with two games in hand. Dumfries Border Vikings and Telford Tigers are not far behind, but the top two should continue to lead the way.

So far, this season has been one of increasing dominance by foreign-born players. It has become far too easy to qualify as "British" and teams have become top heavy with Canadians, whose tenuous links with the United Kingdom allow them to fly under a flag of convenience.

This certainly applies to the national team whose coach, Peter Woods, seems obsessed by Canadian-born players, many of whom are past their best, to the exclusion of British-trained talent. Such a shortsighted policy has caused several promising British players to leave the sport because of lack of opportunity.

Gary Douville, when coach of Telford Tigers, summed it up best when he said: "Just because someone is Canadian does not mean he is necessarily a good player."

But with the European ruling that has forced the football authorities to rethink their rules on foreign players, inexperienced coaches will continue to prefer importing ready-made players rather than nuturing native talent. Opportunities for players like Tony Hands in the future will become increasingly rare.

TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pt
Cardiff	20	15	4	1	150	86	31
Sheffield	17	12	2	3	139	62	27
Nottingham	18	12	5	1	128	76	25
Durham	17	9	5	3	100	77	21
Humberside	16	9	7	0	101	107	18
Basingstoke	17	7	9	1	75	86	15
Fife	17	5	8	4	93	128	14
Milton Keynes	18	3	10	5	98	123	11
Slough	19	3	14	2	93	156	8
Newcastle	17	3	14	0	65	145	6

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pt
Blackburn	28	24	3	1	272	130	49
Manchester	26	23	2	1	273	107	47
Dumfries	29	21	7	1	227	133	43
Telford	30	21	8	1	248	172	43
Bracknell	28	18	8	3	242	142	39
Swindon	28	19	9	1	239	169	39
Guildford	26	16	7	3	202	135	35
Paisley	26	13	13	2	230	167	28
Medway	30	11	15	2	172	203	24
Chelmsford	29	8	17	4	151	207	20
Peterborough	29	6	21	2	138	271	14
Solihull	30	3	25	2	148	299	8
Murrayfield	28	3	24	1	87	270	7
Billingham	29	2	27	0	128	358	4

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand was played in a recent charity tournament.

Dealer West — North - South game — Match-pointed pairs

	♠K6 ♥Q6 ♦AQJ ♣AKJ753	
♠A10954 ♥932 ♦K763 ♣9	N W E S	♠J732 ♥105 ♦954 ♣Q1086
	♠Q8 ♥AKJ874 ♦1062 ♣42	

W	N	E	S
Pass	2 NT	Pass	6 H
All pass			

Contract: Six Hearts by South. Lead: Ace of Spades

Shireen Sepahbodi was West. There are several Shireens on the London bridge scene; this particular one is called Shireen the Cashmere, after her main source of income (the other source is working the £10 game at TGR's).

The setter of the hands recommended a diamond lead against Six Hearts, on the basis that West might be able to set up a trick there and then get in with the ace of spades to cash it. None of that wimpish stuff for Shireen. You don't spend all day selling pullovers at £500 a go to make quiet leads in the evening. She led the ace of spades and practically before the other hands finished playing to the trick, now played a diamond.

Look at it from the declarer's point of view. If the clubs are no worse than 3-2, he can win the ace of diamonds, draw trumps and ruff out the clubs. He will make a spade trick, six heart tricks, one diamond and four club tricks. So he rose with the ace of diamonds, drew trumps and set about the clubs. When they broke 4-1 he went down.

Notice the good play of switching to a diamond at trick two — it forces the declarer to make a decision in that suit before he knows what is happening in the clubs. As for a diamond opening lead, what can declarer do? He has to finesse.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BECUIBA
a. A Brazilian dance
b. A tree
c. Mexican nepotism

ECTROMELIA
a. Limblessness
b. A honey-comb
c. Exhibitionism

CANA
a. A spirit
b. Coarse cotton
c. Unleavened bread

CHOWCHILLA
a. Dog fur
b. Chille con pesco
c. A bird

Answers on page 37

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Stars of the year

With Hastings starting today, the last tournament of the old year and the first of the new, here are my personal awards for the outstanding achievements of 1995.

International personality of the year: Kirsan Ilumzinov, the new president of Fide, the world chess federation.

Ilumzinov, who has made a fortune from caviar, as well as being President of the Russian Republic of Kalmykia, ousted Florencio Campomanes as president of Fide at the Paris meeting in November. Ilumzinov has got off to a good start, reopening bridges with Bobby Fischer by meeting with him in Belgrade and finding sponsorship for the Karpov v Kamsky, Fide championship. This is now set for Montreal next summer with a prize fund of $1.8 million.

Opening of the year: The Dragon Sicilian.

Although shunned by the elite and not seen at world championship level since 1958 this risky variation was revived by Kasparov as a shock weapon against Anand in their New York world championship match. Kasparov scored three out of four with it and it was instrumental in breaking Anand's resistance.

UK personality of the year: Chris Dunworth.

Dunworth has been the moving force behind a colossal upsurge in the number of international level tournaments in the UK, including the Cafe Baroque series and the Four Nations League. Wherever one looks, Dunworth is either teaching chess, organising new events or stimulating chess activity.

Karpov leads

Anatoly Karpov, the Fide champion, has also had a fine year. He now leads in Groningen after van Wely, the early front-runner, suffered this accident in round seven.

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Loek van Wely
Groningen, December 1995

English Opening

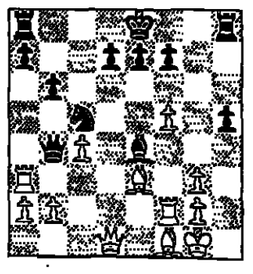
1	c4	Nf6
2	Nc3	c6
3	e4	d5
4	cxd5	cxd5
5	e5	Nfd7
6	d4	Nc6
7	Nge2	Nb6
8	Ng3	g6
9	h4	h5
10	Be2	Bd7
11	Bg5	f6
12	Bd3	Kf7
13	Be3	fxe5
14	Of3+	Kg7
15	Nxd5	Nxd5
16	Qxd5	Be8
17	Qe4	exd4
18	Bd2	Bf7
19	0-0	Kg8
20	f4	Bg7
21	f5	Ne5
22	Bf4	Bd5
23	Qe2	Nxd3
24	Qxd3	Bc6
25	Bg5	Qd5
26	Rf2	Bb5
27	Qd2	Be5
28	Rf3	Bxg3
29	Rxg3	Qxf5
30	Qxd4	Rh7
31	Re1	Bc6
32	Bd2	Rf7
33	Re5	Of1+
34	Kh2	Kh7
35	Qe3	Rg7
36	Rxe7	Qf6
37	Qh6+	Kg8
38	Rxg7+	Black resigns

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Chandler - Larsen, Hastings Premier 1990. Here White found a clever forcing sequence which ultimately exploited the dangerous position of the black queen. What did he play?



Solution on page 37

Scottish fixture list takes on blank look

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

FOOTBALL in Scotland is facing a near-blank weekend with the Arctic weather conditions unlikely to loosen their grip on the country before then. Only two Scottish League grounds — Ibrox and Tannadice, both of which have undersoil heating — were able to stage matches on Boxing Day and the prospects for Saturday look no better.

Rangers are due to entertain Hibernian in the only Bell's Scottish League premier division match with a realistic chance of going ahead, while Dundee United are scheduled to meet Airdrie in the first division at Tannadice.

At Tynecastle, where Hearts were hoping to entertain Celtic, the chairman, Chris Robinson, said: "The pitch is covered but is hard, and there's no real chance of the game being on. We will confirm on Friday whether it can go ahead or not." A postponement would be bad news financially for Hearts, whose Boxing Day match against Motherwell also fell victim to the weather.

It will mean the Edinburgh club going nearly six weeks without any gate receipts, with their last home game staged on December 2 and the next Tynecastle match likely to be the rescheduled Motherwell fixture on January 10.

Robinson, whose club is reported to be struggling financially, added: "The lack of funds will be a big strain and we stand to lose up to £30,000 if Saturday's game is postponed. But we have to manage our finances and get on with it."

While recognising that undersoil heating would help, Robinson said that there were no immediate plans to install a heating system. "Undersoil heating is a must, but at present we have too many priorities at Hearts," he said. "It will be two or three years before we can look at that.

"The stadium and team are uppermost in our minds and undersoil heating is the last of our priorities. In real terms, undersoil heating can take a long time to pay for itself. At the same time, we understand how disappointing it must be for our supporters."

Some top-flight clubs believe undersoil heating should be a requirement for premier division status but Robinson said: "I feel that if it is to be mandatory, there should be a time scale similar to the Taylor Report, with clubs being given around five years to complete the work."

If the match is postponed, it will give Celtic selection problems for the Old Firm game against Rangers on January 3. John Hughes, the defender, and the midfield player, Peter Grant, will miss the Celtic Park meeting as they still have one more game of three-match suspensions to complete.

Harnish Walker, a Scottish Football League spokesman, said there were no immediate fears that the cold snap would produce a fixture backlog. Walker said: "There will be no panic here as we will be able to cope with what the weather gives us.

"We have already rescheduled games for January 9, 10, 16 and 17, and while postponements obviously cause headaches, there are not too many midweek matches scheduled over the next few months."

Walker added that growing calls for mandatory undersoil heating at premier division clubs were unlikely to result in a change in League rules.

"We would have to go a long way down the line before that became a reality, although we have had a long and involved series of discussions with a stadia criteria working group and we are awaiting their recommendations on facilities for grounds in Scotland," he said.

"We are looking to improve every aspect of facilities for supporters and, while the report could recommend undersoil heating, I don't think it would be imposed on clubs currently outside the premier division as many couldn't afford it and might win promotion only to go straight back down. It would be difficult to deny any club promotion to the premier division because they have no undersoil heating."

Fergus McCann, the Celtic chief executive, said: "My preferred option would be a winter shutdown similar to the one in Germany, where the league stops between December 15 and February 10."

St Helens told to prove case or pay the price

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ST HELENS will have to present sick notes for all but one of their regular first team, who missed the debacle at Wigan on Tuesday, at a Rugby Football League (RFL) inquiry into why such a weakened side was fielded in the 58-4 defeat.

Even though the club claims to have medical certificates to explain a dozen absentees, the spirit of St Helens' actions in making a mockery of the final Boxing Day meeting with Wigan will be taken into consideration by a RFL panel next week. If a case to answer is found, the RFL board of directors could well mete out a more severe punishment than the record fines of £8,000 and £12,000, with half suspended, given to Leeds for similar offences last year.

Paul Harrison, the RFL spokesman, said: "We have a responsibility to the near 20,000 crowd who spent hard-earned money going to a match where they expected to see a match between two top teams involving some of the biggest names in the sport."

Signs of miraculous recoveries for St Helens' home Regal Trophy semi-final on Saturday against Warrington, will be watched for. Paul Newlove and Anthony Sullivan who, between them, have scored 36 tries this season, are said to have little chance of playing. Chris Joynt, a fellow international player, is also doubtful at this stage.

With Alan Hunte and Tommy Martyn among long-term injury victims, the casualty list at Knowsley Road numbers 13. David Howes, the club's chief executive, said: "We have medical certificates for every one. In fact, our problems have become worse because Chris Morley, our second-row forward, broke a thumb at Wigan and is out for the rest of the season."

Howes added that the club was prepared to justify its actions and would defend itself vigorously. That still does not explain a shameful disregard for the sport's ethics but where Howes does have a point is that a shortened season has presented many exceptional circumstances.

The match at Wigan was the start of a four-match run in 11 days for St Helens in what has become a devalued and largely meaningless centenary championship campaign. For all clubs, the end next month cannot come soon enough, so preparations for the start of the Super League, in March, can begin in earnest.

In the case of Warrington, should they make the Regal Trophy final at Huddersfield on January 13, the club would have to cram three matches from a fixture backlog into the final week of the season; a quite ludicrous scenario.

St Helens are looking to repair some of the public relations damage by allowing children under 16 into the ground for £1 for the semi-final on Saturday. "We are conscious that there are many games over the Christmas period and people have limited budgets," Howes said. It is a pity the same attitude was not adopted on Boxing Day.

□ Leeds may increase an £80,000 offer for Glen Tomlinson, Batley's highly-rated Australian scrum half. They have continuing problems at half back after a torn arm muscle and another potentially lengthy lay-off for Tony Kemp.

Jones fails to see the error of his ways

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

IN THE latest chapter of a career that is fast degenerating into total ridicule — if it has not plumbed such depths already — Vinnie Jones, the Wimbledon midfield player, is to review a tape of his sending-off during the 2-1 victory over Chelsea at Stamford Bridge on Tuesday. That it happened on Boxing Day was, for once, inappropriate. Jones's eleventh dismissal in ten years was for committing two offences that were deemed cautionable by Dermot Gallagher, the referee.

When the red card was held aloft in the 53rd minute, it was for Jones's tackle from behind — at best, ill-judged; at worst, reckless — on Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea sweeper. It was probably one of the easier decisions that Gallagher has had to make in his years of refereeing and yet Jones, as usual, protested his innocence.

He claimed he had gone for the ball, got it and that Gullit had been rather too theatrical as he tumbled to the ground. The fact that the Incredible Hulk, let alone the elegant Dutchman, would have struggled to stay upright in the face of such a fierce challenge appeared to have escaped Jones.

It is the third time he has been sent off this season, although his premature exit in the 1-0 win against Liverpool in September was later annulled, on appeal, and reduced to a booking. He was also dismissed, for two bookable offences, in the 4-1 defeat at Nottingham Forest last month and is still serving the five-match international suspension that was imposed for his sending-off when playing for Wales against Georgia in June.

Quite where Jones, 31 next month, goes now is a vexing question. He is on the transfer list, at his own request, and is becoming a liability as Wimbledon attempt to steer clear of relegation from the FA Carling Premiership. Birmingham City and West Bromwich Albion have been mooted as possibilities for his next move, but his errant behaviour is limiting the options by the day. Apparently, the offer from non-League Wealdstone, with whom he started his tempestuous career, is still open.



Batty unleashes the shot that brought him his first goal for nearly three years and helped Blackburn Rovers to beat Manchester City

Ball turns to Benfica in bid for survival

MANCHESTER City have turned to the Continent again to try to reinvigorate their attempt at survival in the FA Carling Premiership. Beaten 2-0 by Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park on Tuesday night, they agreed yesterday to a two-month loan trial for Eduardo Abazaj, the Benfica central defender.

City now have five "foreigners" on their books, and against Blackburn became the first Premiership side to start a match with four overseas players since the rule change which means that European nationals are no longer classed as foreign players.

Abazaj, an Albania international with a Portuguese passport, joins the German pair of Eike Immel and Uwe Rösler, Georgiou Kinkladze, the Georgian, and Ronnie Ekelund, the Denmark forward, in Alan Ball's squad.

The Manchester City manager, meanwhile, had to reflect on an unexpected Blackburn double-act that left his side in the Premiership relegation zone. City might have expected to be on the wrong end of another strike by Alan Shearer, but when David Batty scored from 25 yards, his first goal since getting one for Leeds United against Middlesbrough in January 1993, Ball knew that it was not going to be his evening.

"Shearer's was a fabulous goal, but you can't expect Batty to hit one like that," Ball said. "Everybody worked hard. The way we kept possession and our passing were smashing. We just didn't take our chances, though, and I feel very sorry for a lot of my lads because they deserved more than they got."

Had Niall Quinn hit the target rather than the post from six yards soon after Shearer's 24th goal of the season, City might have prevented Rovers from completing their seventh successive home league win. But with chances going begging, their belief began to drain, and City eventually had to be grateful to Immel, their goalkeeper, and the woodwork, which denied Batty and Stuart Ripley, for restricting Blackburn's winning margin.

For Batty, two of whose four previous career goals had also been scored against City, it was the completion of a rare "hat-trick". "We'll let him keep the ball for that one goal." Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, said. Batty saw the funny side of things himself. "I always enjoy playing City," he said. "I suppose the goal was long overdue really, but it was a great ball from Alan that set it up. The crowd all knew I'd waited a long time, and so did the other players, but to be honest it's not a part of my game that really bothers me."

It bothered City, though, as Ball's resigned air intimated. Suddenly, the bright form that made him manager of the month in November must seem a distant memory.

Ball said: "We had chances but didn't hit the back of the net, and we haven't all season. We are missing them in the six-yard box, snatching at them, hitting the post, and not scoring."

Blackburn's performance, though, served once again to make a mockery of their form away from Ewood Park, where they have dropped five points from ten games. They have picked up only three on their travels, although Harford was quick to point out that their only defeat in seven games was the 5-0 mauling away to Coventry City on an ice-bound pitch at Highfield Road on December 9.

On Saturday, when Tottenham Hotspur visit Ewood Park, three records are on the line, and at least one of them must go. Shearer has scored in all ten of Blackburn's home matches, and their victory over City was their seventh in succession in the league, while Tottenham boast the Premiership's only unbeaten away record.

League sets sights on better facilities

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

NEGLECTED, crumbling stadiums and inadequate facilities were yesterday identified as the biggest problems facing rugby league as it gears for the launch in March of the Super League. Mark Newton, the Rugby Football League's (RFL) recently-appointed director of marketing, said: "It's a common problem for all club chairmen — should we buy a new player or rebuild the toilet blocks?"

Newton is a newcomer to the sport's historic and myriad deficiencies, after eight years marketing Surrey County Cricket Club. Making widespread ground improvements is a pre-requisite for the funds distributed to the 33 professional clubs under the £87 million Super League deal, but the scale of the task can only mean progress is gradual. Newton identified football's ground improvements in the past decade as an indication of the way forward for rugby league.

"We know we can deliver a fantastic product on the field, but if a family of four comes to watch a game and the two kids cannot see from the terracing, or Dad cannot park his car easily, they won't come again," he warned in an interview in *Rugby League Express*.

A disappointing and badly-attended centenary championship season is hardly the ideal platform on which to build. Rather than the television deal taking Super League into 150 million homes worldwide, Newton is hoping to increase attendances by a corporate form of match-day entertainment in more inviting grounds suitable for families.

"Supporters of our game have tremendous brand loyalty and would find it hard to suddenly drop that loyalty," Newton said, "but the switch [to playing in the summer] gives us a tremendous opportunity to tap into a huge new market. We'll be setting attendance targets for each club."

Squad numbers, as in the FA Carling Premiership, are under consideration, as are standardised admission prices. "The success of Paris and London is also vital and I'll be working very closely with them. They already have good infrastructures and Paris are making rapid progress. I think they'll surprise a few people," Newton said.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Toronto 93 Milwaukee 87, Atlanta 94 LA Clippers 88, Detroit 100 Golden State 90; Miami 96 New Jersey 93, Indiana 103 Chicago 97; Houston 120 Vancouver 84; Denver 114 Dallas 102; Utah 114 Portland 104, LA Lakers 102 Boston 91 Sacramento 115 San Antonio 98

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	22	6	.786	—
New York	19	7	.731	2
Miami	14	12	.538	7
Boston	12	13	.480	8½
Washington	12	13	.480	8½
New Jersey	10	15	.400	10½
Philadelphia	5	19	.208	15

Central division

Chicago	23	3	.885	—
Indiana	14	11	.560	8½
Cleveland	13	12	.520	9½
Atlanta	13	13	.500	10
Charlotte	13	14	.481	10½
Detroit	13	14	.481	10½
Milwaukee	9	16	.360	13½
Toronto	9	20	.310	15½

Western Conference

Midwest division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	20	8	.714	—
San Antonio	17	8	.680	1½
Utah	18	9	.667	1½
Denver	12	14	.462	7
Minnesota	7	17	.292	11
Dallas	7	18	.280	11½
Vancouver	4	24	.143	16

Pacific division

Seattle	17	8	.680	—
Sacramento	16	9	.640	1
LA Lakers	16	13	.552	3
Phoenix	11	13	.458	5½
Portland	11	15	.423	6½
Golden State	10	16	.384	7½
LA Clippers	10	17	.370	8

CRICKET

CASTLE CUP (second day of four): Paarl: Boland 231 (K Jackson 58; M W Pringle 5-67); Western Province 150-2 (H H Gibbs 57 not out). East London: Free State 188 (C Craven 47); Border 280-9 (P Strydom 58).

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late result

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Blackburn 2 Man City 0.

GOLF

SONY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, G Norman (Aus) 21 93pts av, 2, N Price (Zim) 16 34, 3, B Langer (Ger) 15 64, 4, E Els (SA) 14 66, 5, C Montgomerie (Scot) 14 00, 6, N Faldo (Eng) 13 94; 7, C Parry (Aus) 13 47, 8, F Couples (US) 11 02, 9, M Ozaki (Japan) 10 82; 10, S Ellington (Aus) 10 43, 11, T Lehman (US) 9 69; 12, J M Olazabal (Sp) 9 26, 13, S Torrance (Scot) 8 32; 14, L Janzen (US) 8 27, 15, V Singh (Fiji) 8 12; 16, L Roberts (US) 8 08; 17, D Love (US) 7 73; 18, F Jacobsen (US) 7 53, 19, M McCumber (US) 7 39; 20, B Crenshaw (US) 7 26, 21, S Hoch (US) 7 18, 22, C Rocca (It) 7 04, 23, P Mickelson (US) 6 77, 24, D Frost (SA) 6 70; 25, J Haas (US) 6 47; 26, S Ballesteros (Sp) 6 46; 27, J Gallagher Jr (US) 6 39; 28, M Campbell (NZ) 6 23; 29, B Faxon (US) 6 21, 30, F Zoeller (US) 6 13, 31, P Stewart (US) 6 09; 32, J Maggert (US) 5 96; 33, T Watson (US) 5 95, 34, M Calcavecchia (US) 5 86; 35, M McNulty (Zim) 5 81, 36, B Mayfair (US) 5 77; 37, F Nobilo (NZ) 5 63; 38, I Woosnam (Wales) 5 55, 39, S Simpson (US) 5 54 40, J Parnevik (Swe) 5 48; 41, D Duval (US) 5 46 42, B Glasson (US) 5 30; 43, C Parry (Aus) 5 28, 44, M O'Meara (US) 5 11, 45, J Daly (US) 4 96

RUGBY LEAGUE

BURTONWOOD BREWERY LANCASHIRE CUP: Final: Postponed: Wooston v Saddleworth

FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Premier League under-19 trophy: Norfolk v Essex (at Norwich, 1 0) Premier League under-16 trophy: Inner London v Cambridgeshire (at Eltham, 11 0); Kent v Sussex (at Cobdown 2 0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Worthing v Newcastle (8.0)

DARTS: WDC championship (Circus Tavern, Purfleet).

HOCKEY: Under-15, under-17 divisional tournament (Bristol)

ICE HOCKEY: British League: First division: Swindon v Bracknell (8 0)

SNOOKER: Dr Martens European League (Diamond Centre, Irthlingborough)

RUGBY UNION

Club match

Leicester	51	Barbarians 25

Leicester: Tries: Hackney (2), Underwood (2), Kardoom, Richards. Back. Cons: Harris (5) Pens: Harris (2) Barbarians: Tries: Berck, Staaub, Proctor. Cons: King (2) Pens: King (2)

SRU UNDER-21 INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP: Postponed: Glasgow District v Edinburgh District

SNOOKER

IRTHLINGBOROUGH: Dr Martens European League: P Ebdon (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire) 8-0 Frame scores (Ebdon first): 66-0, 61-60, 74-5, 93-18, 70-5, 78-0, 71-64, 62-19.

TENNIS

CLEAR VIEW: LTA Winter Series: Finals: Men: G Bradford (Essex) bt D Ward (Kent) 6-2, 6-3. Women: H Crook (Essex) bt Z Mellis (Essex) 6-2, 6-1

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke 3 Sheffield 4, Cardiff 6 Nottingham 5. First division: Dumfries 16 Murrayfield 2, Solihull 2 Guildford 21; Telford 10 Medway 3

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 3 St Louis 2, NY Islanders 3 Boston 3 (OT), NY Rangers 6 Ottawa 4, Pittsburgh 6 Buffalo 3, Washington 4 Montreal 0; Chicago 5 Dallas 3, Colorado 5 San Jose 1; Calgary 4 Vancouver 2

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Florida	25	8	2	52	125	81
NY Rangers	23	10	6	52	138	107
Philadelphia	21	10	5	47	131	90
Washington	18	15	3	39	94	89
Tampa Bay	14	15	6	34	103	119
New Jersey	14	17	4	32	88	88
NY Islanders	8	21	6	22	97	134

Northeast division

Pittsburgh	22	9	3	47	166	104
Montreal	18	15	2	38	105	107
Buffalo	16	16	3	35	106	111
Boston	14	14	5	33	119	123
Hartford	11	18	5	27	85	107
Ottawa	7	26	1	15	83	137

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Detroit	25	7	2	52	133	72
Toronto	18	11	6	42	116	99
Chicago	16	12	8	40	118	107
St Louis	15	16	5	35	93	97
Winnipeg	15	17	3	33	123	130
Dallas	10	15	7	27	88	105

Pacific division

Colorado	21	11	5	47	154	107
Los Angeles	13	14	8	34	112	113
Vancouver	12	14	9	33	122	124
Anaheim	13	21	3	29	111	125
Edmonton	11	19	6	28	95	141
Calgary	9	20	7	25	97	130
San Jose	8	24	4	20	108	164

WORCESTER, Massachusetts: World junior championships:

GROUP A: Finland 5 Switzerland 1; Canada 6, United States 1.

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Finland	1	0	0	2	5	1
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP B: Czech Republic 5 Russia 3; Sweden 6 Slovakia 0.

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
Sweden	1	0	0	2	6	0
Czech Republic	1	0	0	2	5	3
Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	0	0	1	0	3	5
Slovakia	0	0	1	0	6	0





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هكذا من الأصل

New year resolutions to make sense of the sporting world

A new world is but a new mind. At the end of the year everybody is entitled to dream of what the coming one may bring. The page is fresh; all it needs is the doers and makers to write down their deeds in ink.

In the world of sport, next year's bill of fare includes the Olympic Games in Atlanta, the cricket World Cup, football's European championship in England and the first season in rugby union's brave new professional world. Who will feast the longest?

We are encouraged to make new year resolutions and usually mislay them before Twelfth Night. Still, this is the time to fashion the world in a way that satisfies our urge for order. Therefore, begging pardon for such indulgence, let us hope that:

Terry Venables at last learns to decline the verb, 'to do'

France win the five nations' championship with the flair that is evidently beyond buttoned-up England.

Television interviewers stop trading pally banalities with football managers and, instead of making tame assertions ("it's always good to get a point"), ask some proper questions.

Frank Bruno retires, without any broken bones, to enjoy his career beyond the ring as a licensed buffoon.

Jonathan Edwards continues to demonstrate that, splendid though success is, neither the winning nor even the taking part is ever the most important thing in life.

Damon Hill admits: "Fair dos. Michael is obviously the better driver."

England meet and beat Australia in the World Cup final in Lahore on March 17, to give Michael Atherton encouragement that he is getting somewhere.

Terry Venables learns to decline the verb, "to do".

David Mellor gives up English demotic.

Radio 5 Live presenters discover the vowel.

People leave Liam Botham and Peter Phillips alone until they do something worth writing about, and leave Ian Botham alone until he says something worth writing about.

We get through that increasingly tiresome tennis tournament in south London without any reference to strawberries, or shots of loafing film stars.

Jack Rowell owns up to his own mistakes.

Kevin Keegan, from whom Rowell could absorb a lesson or two about responsibility, wins the FA Carling Premiership for Newcastle United.

Fred Trueman is dropped from the *Test Match Special* team before there is a fatality on air and his colleagues in the commentary box are taken away "to assist police with their inquiries".

SPORTING RESOLUTIONS



MICHAEL HENDERSON

The Rugby Football League imposes a ten-point handicap on Wigan in the Challenge Cup. Otherwise, hand it to them now.

The Football Association declares that any club that offers George Graham a job will be fined £5 million and docked 25 points, with no right of appeal.

IN THE manner of Jonathan Swift, it is tempting to offer in addition a few "modest proposals". Thus, in a perfect world it would be possible to arrange for:

"Prince" Naseem Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion with a mouth as wide as the Humber, to be picked in the England front row against France in Paris on January 20. With luck he might never open it again.

The BBC to appoint a new head of children's television programmes in the interests of "relevance": someone with a knowledge of the unformed mind, a limited vocabulary and an emotional kinship with the *Blue Peter* set. This is clearly a job for Paul Gascoigne.

Anybody wearing a baseball cap the wrong way round to be put in the stocks for a week. In the case of Ian Wright and Chris Lewis, who have "previous", a month at least.

Brian Lara plc to spend a day as an invisible witness in the Australia dressing-room, to see how responsible adults behave in a team environment. An afternoon with them would remind him that he owes cricket much more than the game will ever owe him.

Damon Hill admits: 'Fair dos, Michael is obviously the better driver'

The following words and phrases to be outlawed: genius, icon, guru, outfit, emote, gaffer, Brit, enthuse, creative, lifestyle, well pleased, all credit, wall-to-wall, check out, the business (as in do). Radio and television folk who use them will be gagged and forced to listen to Sir Alec Guinness reading Eliot's *Four Quartets*, to discover the nobility of English when it is written and spoken by a master.

Linford Christie, who compared his autobiography with the Bible, no less, to join a think-tank comprising Sir Isaiah Berlin, Alfred Brendel and Jonathan Miller on a remodelled Late Night Line-up panel to discuss "Life in the fast lane: art, metaphysics, track and field".

THREE memories of 1995, from "abroad". For pleasure, Manhattan: watching the Europe team regain the Ryder Cup on television in a Madison Avenue bar. For amusement, Paris: discussing cricket over dinner with the American baritone, Thomas Hampson. For education, Soweto: observing the crowd at England's opening first-class game on their tour of South Africa. It is not often that sport helps to change a country.

☐ *John Bryant is on holiday*

Nomadic club's future appears brighter despite defeat at Leicester

Barbarians find tradition has a price

Leicester 51
Barbarians 25

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE future of the Barbarians has been stabilised by an extension of their established sponsorship arrangements. However, the playing future of the most famous nomadic club in the world remains shrouded after Leicester equalled their highest score in the traditional Christmas fixture at a frosty Welford Road yesterday.

Yet judgments must be made on a broad canvas. This was, after all, the champions of England creaking back into action after a period of comparative hibernation against a guest XV whose selections were limited by national demands and who were nevertheless seeking to combine youth, experience, and a dash of overseas flavouring. Yet they were encouraged by a new three-year agreement with Scottish Amicable which should ensure their ability to compete at home and, more particularly, away.

That more than 15,000 spectators were warmed by a competitive first half, then

Gloucester have recruited Alastair Saverimutto, the former England Colts centre, from Coventry. Saverimutto, 25, who has also played for Bath and Bristol, is the second emerging player to join Gloucester within a week after Trevor Woodman, 19, the England Under-21 prop forward, moved to them from Bath.

MIKE EGERTON



A full-length tackle by Shiel, right, the Barbarians centre, forces Hackney, the wing who scored two tries for Leicester, to concede possession

nourished by a second-half explosion which brought Leicester six of their seven tries, should also be remembered. "The club has many friends within the game, who appreciate our value in bringing players together and encouraging them to display all their skills," Mickey Steele-Bodger, the Barbarians president, said.

Significantly, too, Leicester continue to prize the game, though next year they will have a delicate dilemma to solve. The fixture is scheduled for a Friday, 24 hours before a league match, and if Leicester are as good as their word they will ask for a league postponement so that they can honour tradition even amid the paraphernalia of professionalism.

Even so, the Barbarians will concede the need to pay players if they have to, while hoping that the fundamental reasons for representing the club can be sustained. Moreover, if Leicester play against Sale in the Courage Clubs Championship on Saturday with as much *joie de vivre* as they did yesterday, their members, too, can look forward to a happy new year.

They will have been encouraged by the display of their two centres, Delaney and Robinson; particularly the latter, whose form was sufficiently wayward to have caused his omission from this fixture until the withdrawal with a knee injury of James Overend. Delaney, a student at Leicester University, grew in stature as the match progressed, aided greatly by Leicester's domination of possession after the interval. Yet the Leicester crowd is discerning enough to recognise opposition skills, notably those of Leigh Davies, the bustling youngster from Neath, whose outside breaks are a comparative rarity in the modern game. Had the Barbarians' finishing been as good as their creative midfield running, their first-half lead would have been more substantial than 13-11.

Throughout the first half, Leicester, whose ground staff produced an excellent surface (this game has not been postponed since 1980), huffed and puffed into some semblance of order. While they did so the Barbarians flourished, the speed of Gomarsall on the break catching the hosts napping and the knowledgeable Morrison supplying the vital link.

Their forwards drove Berek over the line for the first try of the game and although Underwood responded with his tenth in the series, Leicester had to wait until the second half before taking a grip. This was their fourth successive win over the Barbarians and was ensured by two tries in three minutes from Hackney.

The wing, playing his hundredth game for the club, finished off some outstanding team tries earlier this season, and he thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity given partly by good application of the advantage law by Derek Bevan, partly by a telling pass from Kilford. His second try, preceded by a thunderous handoff by Cockerill, carried him 60 metres past a despairing defence and earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Thereafter the Barbarians were chasing shadows. Any try by Richards is greeted by delight at Welford Road, and Back evokes similar elation. In between, however, Underwood scored his second try after splendid driving play by Rowntree which he will do well to reproduce when Leicester take themselves to Bath on the first Saturday in the new year.

The crowd looked forward to their team surpassing the 51 points scored against the Barbarians in 1993; instead it was their guests who signed off with two tries, the first of them made by the fluent King and scored by the forceful South African, Straeuli, the second by Proctor after Leicester, uncharacteristically, turned over possession with their defence awry.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tries: Hackney (2), Underwood (2), Kardoorn, Richards, Back. Conversions: Harris (5) Penalty goals: Harris (2) Barbarians: Tries: Berek, Straeuli, Proctor. Conversions: King (2). Penalty goals: King (2)

LEICESTER: W Kilford; S Hackney, P Delaney, R Robinson, R Underwood, J Harris, A Kardoorn; G Rowntree, R Cockerill, D Garforth, C Tarbuck, P Grant, M Poole, N Back, D Richards

BARBARIANS: J Thomas (Llanelli and Wales), D Lougheed (Toronto Welsh and Canada), L Davies (Neath), G Shiel (Melrose and Scotland), W Proctor (Llanelli and Wales); A King (Bristol Univ), A Gomarsall (Wasps); M Mika (Otago Univ and Western Samoa), B Reidy (Marist St Pats and Western Samoa), D Lagisame (Dax), P Walton (Newcastle and Scotland), R Berek (Dax), G Prosser (Pontypridd and Wales), I Morrison (London Scottish and Scotland), R Straeuli (Transvaal and South Africa).

Referee: D Bevan (Wales)

SPORT IN BRIEF

Lara leads moves to West Indies return

BRIAN LARA is expected to take the first step towards a return to the West Indies team today when he leads Trinidad and Tobago in a Red Stripe Cup trial match. Lara's future as an international cricketer has been in some doubt since he withdrew from the West Indies squad at present touring Australia after being fined for breaches of conduct during the tour of England last summer. Lara subsequently threatened to retire from the sport.

"We are all looking forward to seeing him back making runs," Theo Cuffy, the Trinidad and Tobago team manager, said yesterday. "It will be great to see him out there. He has had his rest and he wants to get back to playing cricket. He is looking relaxed and at ease. This holiday has done him a world of good." Cuffy said that Lara will captain the team when the Red Stripe Cup begins next month, and intimated that he expected Lara to play for West Indies in the World Cup, which begins in February.

Taylor's smooth start

DARTS: Phil Taylor made an impressive start to his defence of the Vernons Pools World Championship in Purfleet, Essex yesterday by beating Cliff Lazarenko 3-0 in his opening group match. Taylor, the top seed, was never troubled, firing five maximum 180s during the match. He twice won the Embassy World Championship before the breakaway World Darts Council was formed in 1993 and he said: "It would be nice to do the double in both championships." Another former Embassy champion, Jocky Wilson, who suffers from diabetes, has withdrawn from the tournament on medical advice.

Council halts bout

BOXING: James Murray's death after his recent British bantamweight title contest with Drew Docherty in Glasgow has led to boxing being banned at a sports centre in Potters Bar. Hertsmere Council, owner of the Furzefield Centre, has called a halt at a venue where Mark Delaney was due to defend his World Boxing Organisation Inter-Continental super-middleweight title against the Welsh champion, Darron Griffiths, on January 23. Barry Hearn's Matchroom organisation staged three promotions there this year but this bout has been switched to Bethnal Green.

Ebdon whitewash

SNOOKER: Peter Ebdon stormed to a superb 8-0 victory over Ken Doherty in the opening match of the Dr Martens European snooker League in Irthlingborough, Northamptonshire, yesterday. Ebdon chalked up a best break of 93 in the fourth frame and added further runs of 78 and 71 in taking the sixth and seventh respectively. Play-off places in the event can be decided on frame difference, so Ebdon was thrilled to have started in such magnificent form. "I felt very confident out there and my game flowed nicely," he said. Ebdon plays Ronnie O'Sullivan today.

Americans team up

TENNIS: A United States team has been brought into the Hopman Cup exhibition tournament starting in Perth, Western Australia, on Saturday after the late withdrawal of Sweden. The Swedes were forced to withdraw their team after Mats Wilander, the former world No 1, suffered a back injury. Richey Reneberg and Chanda Rubin will now team up to represent the United States. The other nations competing are: Australia, Croatia, France, Germany, Holland, South Africa and Switzerland.

Buccaneers sack Wyche

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Sam Wyche, the head coach of Tampa Bay Buccaneers, was dismissed yesterday after failing to turn around the team's fortunes in four seasons. The departure was rumoured after the Buccaneers lost seven of their last nine games, after a 5-2 start, and finished 7-9 for their fourteenth consecutive losing season. The record, though, was Tampa Bay's best since 1981 in a non-strike year. Wyche's dismissal came one day after the Arizona Cardinals fired their coach, Buddy Ryan.

Windsurfers ride out gale

BY BARRY PICKTHALL

WINDSURFING has been through the hoops this year. Two British sailors — Nik Baker and Jamie Hawkins — may have won two world championships, but the sport was left struggling under the strain of debts of about £1.1 million when the Professional Boardsailing Association (PBA), the organiser of the world tour, was forcibly wound up after a competitor-led coup midway through the season.

Competitors were left without their prize-money and sponsors who support this £11 million annual circus were left decidedly uneasy. Many saw parallels with the hula hoop craze — a sport that had reached its zenith and is now in a tail-spin decline, yet, as the year ends, the 200 men and women who make up the world tour see a brighter future.

After wresting control of events and what money was left in the coffers, the competitors, led by Phil McGain and Stuart Sawyer, have changed their name to the Professional Windsurfing Association (PWA) and won increased support, not just from sponsors but from television as well, for a ten-month tour. Competition will start in Grand Canaria at the end of February and finish with the indoor world championship at Amsterdam next December, when Baker will be defending his title.

The tour, which carries $2 million (about £1.3 million) in prize-money and has helped several windsurfers to become millionaires, is now being managed by SSM, a British-based sports marketing company at Chelsea Wharf.

☐ Samantha Brewster, the solo British yachtswoman who set out from Southampton in October to challenge Mike Golding's world east-west circumnavigation record, sailing against the prevailing winds and currents, is to restart her voyage from Santos, Brazil, on January 1. She put into the Brazilian port earlier this month to make repairs to the rig on her 67ft yacht *Heath Insured*. The 27-year-old from Ipswich intends to continue around Cape Horn and return to Santos after rounding the Cape of Good Hope and completing a loop up the Atlantic to Ushant, her original starting point.

Winds thwart Sayonara

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HEAD winds of 25 knots yesterday slowed the progress of *Sayonara*, the United States maxi yacht, as she continued to lead the way in the Sydney-to-Hobart race. Choppy seas caused further difficulties, putting her an hour behind the schedule needed to beat the record time for the 630 nautical-mile event.

Sayonara, the favourite, had been four hours ahead of the required rate, after progressing down the east coast of Australia at average speeeds of 12.5 knots during the day and 10.5 knots at night. The onset of the south westerly winds, however, reduced her to an average of 9.34 knots.

Sayonara, made of carbon fibre and powered by computer-moulded Kevlar sails, needs to average 10.2 knots in order to beat the record of two days, 14 hours, 36 minutes and 56 seconds set by *Kialoa*, the American maxi ketch, in 1975. Encouragingly, a 30-knot westerly wind blowing across Hobart would favour the yacht when she reaches the east coast of Tasmania. "Whether she breaks the record is now touch and go," Peter Campbell, the race spokesman, said.

Her owner, Larry Ellison, the co-founder and chief executive of the Oracle Corporation, is on board with his friend, Rupert Murdoch, the chairman and chief executive of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

Amazon, the Australian pocket maxi, was second, five miles behind *Sayonara*, with another Australian craft, *Brindabella*, dropping off the pace a further seven miles behind.

Two yachts in the 98-strong fleet hit whales yesterday, causing one, *Future Shock*, to retire with a broken rudder. The 56ft Australian entry, which had been in seventh place, was the first casualty of what is one of the most gruelling yacht races in the world.

Several whales have been sighted off the south east coast of Australia in recent days and a general warning about the dangers they present has been issued to all competitiors.

Humpback whales, which can grow to 50 feet in length and weigh up to 26 tonnes, migrate to warmer waters along the eastern coast to give birth at this time of year.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 35

BECUIBA
(b) A Brazilian timber-tree, *Virola bicuhyba*. Used attributively in *becuiba nut*, the fruit of an aromatic Brazilian tree. From Portuguese ex the Tupi *bucuhyba*. Becuiba, or Becuiba nut, a species of nut from Brazil, the emulsive kernel ranked among balsamic remedies.

ECTROMELIA
(a) The congenital absence of a limb or limbs. From the Greek *ekmōsis* miscarriage + *mélos* a limb. "Case of Ectromelia: Kosmak reports, with an illustration, a case showing entire absence of the upper extremities. There is not a dimple indicating where the arms ought to appear."

CANA
(a) A spirit resembling rum made from sugar cane, from the Spanish *caña* cane.

CHOWCHILLA
(c) The black-headed log-runner (*Orthonyx spaldingi*), a small bird found in the mountain ranges in Queensland. Imitative of its note.

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1 Qd4! (attacing the rook on h8) 1 ... Rg8 2 Bd2 and the black queen is trapped.

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Atherton's bowlers struggle to contain on sluggish pitch

England facing long haul to safety

FROM ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT
IN PORT ELIZABETH

PORT ELIZABETH (second day of five): England, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 388 runs behind South Africa

CARING little for style and flair, striving only for effect, South Africa's team of professional pragmatists achieved their purpose yesterday by batting England out of this fourth Test. They were helped, in turn, by the toss, the pitch and opponents whose bowling and fielding disciplines deserted them under stress.

It was not a pretty sight. England's bowling was made to look innocuous, for which this dreadfully slow pitch will be held largely responsible. But the bowling was not only toothless, it was too often wayward and ultimately fatalistic. Six chances were also spurned in the field, three of them in a single, shambolic over, so that when the South African innings ended after more than 11 vigilant hours, the possible outcomes of this match were already limited to two.

To earn the better of them, the draw that will set up the winner-takes-all climax in Cape Town next week, England must bat with considerably more care than they displayed in the field. They did not make a propitious start. Alec Stewart was out to his second legitimate ball, thrusting firm-footed outside off stump, as he is doing far too frequently, but Michael Atherton and Jason Gallian survived the final hour, and the fanfared first spell of Paul Adams.

England ought not to lose. On this dreary pitch, the antithesis of what the game should be seeking from its Test match surfaces, only two teams of great disparity should be able to produce a positive result in five days. But, although there is precious little to choose between these sides, England are mentally in retreat, which counts for rather more.

They will have felt the world was ganging up against them. The loss of a coveted toss, the failure to split South Africa's fourth-wicket pair at an impressionable stage and an injury to Mark Ilott in mid-afternoon yesterday conspired to visibly discourage them. Atherton, hard though he tried to restore the missing spark, had at his disposal bowlers who were neither quick enough nor different enough to worry accomplished batsmen in these conditions.

Ali Bacher, managing director of the United Cricket Board of South Africa, can never be accused of complacency and he has devoted revenue and research materials to a team of scientists in an attempt to improve the country's pitches. They should begin here, on the oldest of their Test grounds, for this was cricket in purgatory, of the type to drive away the hard-earned crowds.

Before play yesterday, one London bookmaker was offering 12-1 against an England win. It seemed an attractive price, and would have been if two wickets had fallen rapidly. But England took only one, and though they will carp with some justification about a rejected leg-before shout against Brian McMillan, they failed to strike again before lunch. And then it was too late.

The morning was overcast and humid, offering hope of swing. But even this aid was denied to an England attack which, without the speed of Malcolm, the varieties of Gough or a genuine spin, as distinct from slow bowler, depends unhealthily upon it. McMillan, sensing he had plenty in his favour, plunged imposingly on to the front foot.

Daryll Cullinan was less circumspect and had progressed to within nine runs of his second Test century when he faced Dominic Cork's first ball of the morning. Cullinan would choose to get out to almost anyone before Cork but one would not have known it here, as he chased a wide long hop with such determination that the edge, from close to the end of the bat, just carried to a tumbling Jack Russell.

The local band, such a feature of this occasion, broke instantly into a rendition of *When the Saints . . .* It failed to inspire the English and Atherton was soon casting around for someone to bowl, calling upon Gallian for two overs as it became clear that the docility of the pitch was entirely to Dave Richardson's liking.

McMillan, the bat looking puny in his massive hands, emerged only rarely from his introspection but, when he did, it usually counted. Having pulled away to complain of Russell's chattering, he heaved Illingworth's next ball, a full toss, over mid-wicket for six. It was a considerable surprise when he fell, five overs into the afternoon, though the manner of his going, caught off the bottom edge as he cut at Illingworth, said everything about the pitch.

Illingworth has been a grave disappointment here. The loop and flight that he had belatedly imposed upon his bowling has now given way to the old Illingworth, content to fire the ball in guilelessly. It is almost as if he is in World Cup mode already.

For all that, he did have four catches missed off his bowling — three in the one, fateful over — and if Atherton had clung on at mid-wicket with Pollock on five and the score on 337, England's suffering might have been curtailed much more quickly. Instead, Pollock, who rode his luck — the third umpire reprieving him when he appeared to be run out — and Richardson, short of runs thus far in the series, dragged the total ever nearer impregnability.

Pollock finally fell to the tireless Cork but England were into their sixth session in the field, and looking distinctly ragged, by the time Richardson, when 84, tried to play French cricket against Illingworth and was nimbly caught off bat and pad by Russell. Thorpe, Gallian and Illingworth all put down chances before, two overs later, a stumping and a run-out achieved what catches could not.

England's prospects of making 229 to avoid the follow-on did not look bright after Stewart's surrender and they might well have deteriorated further. In Adams's first over, acclaimed with a standing ovation, Gallian lived dangerously. In his second, Gallian was missed, a sharp chance to Kirsten at short leg. The fairy tale was put on hold, and England breathed again.

REBECCA NADEN



Richardson, whose innings of 84 ensured a formidable South Africa total, gives himself room to drive for four through the offside

PORT ELIZABETH SCOREBOARD

South Africa won toss

SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

A C Hudson c Russell b Cork	31 (102min, 79 balls, 3 fours)
G Kirsten c Thorpe b Ilott	51 (166min, 128 balls, 9 fours)
*W J Cronje c Atherton b Martin	4 (49min, 27 balls, 1 four)
D J Cullinan c Russell b Cork	91 (244min, 183 balls, 14 fours)
J N Rhodes c Smith b Cork	49 (156min, 119 balls, 1 six, 5 fours)
B M McMillan c Russell b Illingworth	49 (171min, 118 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)
†D J Richardson c Russell b Illingworth	84 (223min, 189 balls, 11 fours)
S M Pollock lbw b Cork	23 (76min, 44 balls, 3 fours)
C R Matthews st Russell b Illingworth	15 (73min, 47 balls, 1 four)
A A Donald not out	12 (35min, 33 balls)
P R Adams run out (Gallian/Russell)	0 (2min, 2 balls)
Extras (lb 11, nb 8)	19
Total (159.5 overs, 550min)	428

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-57 (Kirsten 25), 2-85 (Kirsten 48), 3-89 (Cullinan 1), 4-207 (Cullinan 67), 5-251 (McMillan 16), 6-326 (Richardson 39), 7-379 (Richardson 67), 8-408 (Matthews 11), 9-426 (Donald 11)

BOWLING: Cork 43.2-12-113-4 (nb 10; 5-1-14-0, 7-4-7-1, 6-1-10-0, 5-0-26-1, 6-0-26-1, 5-3-9-0, 5 2-1-14-1, 4-2-7-0), Ilott 29.4-7-82-1 (7-3-10-0, 4-0-17-0, 5-2-16-1, 4-1-11-0, 8-1-26-0, 1-4-0-2-0); Martin 33-9-79-1 (7-2-20-0, 5-1-11-1, 5-1-9-0, 8-3-14-0, 3-1-4-0, 3-1-9-0, 2-0-12-0); Illingworth 39.5-8-105-3 (4-2-5-0, 10-3-25-0, 4-0-21-0, 12-3-29-1, 2-0-7-0, 7.5-0-18-2); Hick 12-2-32-0 (1-0-3-0, 3-0-8-0, 8-2-21-0); Gallian 2-0-6-0 (one spell).

SCORING NOTES (second day) — Lunch: 316-5 (117 overs, 382min) McMillan 45, Richardson 34 Tea: 395-7 (148 overs, 503min) Richardson 79, Matthews 3.

ENGLAND: First Innings

*M A Atherton not out	15 (73min, 67 balls, 1 four)
A J Stewart c Richardson b Pollock	4 (6min, 2 balls, 1 four)
J E R Gallian not out	14 (66min, 54 balls, 2 fours)
Extras (lb 3, w 1, nb 3)	7
Total (1 wkt, 20 overs, 73min)	40

G P Thorpe, G A Hick, R A Smith, †R C Russell, D G Cork, P J Martin, M C Ilott and R K Illingworth to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-7 (Atherton 2)

BOWLING: Donald 4-0-8-0 (nb 3, one spell), Pollock 5-3-6-1 (3-2-5-1, 2-1-1-0); Adams 7-2-16-0 (one spell); Matthews 4-2-6-0 (one spell).

Umpires: S A Buchnor (West Indies) and C J Mitchley TV replay umpire: R E Koertzen.

Match referee: C H Lloyd (West Indies).

RESULTS: First Test (Pretoria) drawn Second Test (Johannesburg) drawn Third Test (Durban)* drawn

TEST TO COME: Fifth (Cape Town)* Jan 2 to 6

☐ *Compiled by Bill Frindall*

Muralitharan allowed to continue

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Sri Lanka off spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, survived further scrutiny of his suspect action yesterday as Australia reached 500 for six at Melbourne on the second day of the second Test.

Muralitharan, who has been urged by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to alter his action after being no-balled seven times by Darrell Hair, the Australian umpire, on Tuesday, bowled 20 more overs without being called for throwing.

David Boon completed his 21st Test hundred and Steve Waugh hit an unbeaten 131 before the declaration. Sri Lanka replying with 29 for the loss of Roshan Mahanama.

After his troubles on Tuesday, Muralitharan operated entirely from the end of the New Zealand umpire, Steve Dunne, with Hair looking on from square leg, the position from which an umpire usually calls a bowler for throwing.

Anura Tennekoon, secretary of the Board of Control of Cricket in Sri Lanka, said he would approach the umpires at the end of the match. "We have to find out exactly from the umpires why some deliveries were called as no-balls and why some were not. To be called in a Test match is rather harsh on a player. But the fact that it has been done means we will have to take some action."

Although Muralitharan did not add to the wicket of Mark Waugh he took in Tuesday's final session, he made some impact by holding catches to dismiss Boon and Ian Healy. Boon took 23 balls to score the seven runs he needed to complete his hundred but after he had gone for 110, made in just over six hours, the scoring rate improved.

Waugh, who needed a runner in the later stages of his innings because of a groin strain, got to his second Test century of the summer off 210 balls, with nine fours, having made an unbeaten 112 against Pakistan in the first Test in Brisbane last month.

The main crowd-pleaser, however, was Ricky Ponting, 20, who slammed 71, which included a six and nine fours from 94 balls.

Sri Lanka were badly let down by their fielding. Healy was missed in the deep off successive balls from Aravinda de Silva, even though the fielders concerned, Vaas and Gurusinha, both got two hands to the ball. The wicketkeeper, Romesh Kaluwitharana also had a sorry day, fumbling two stumping chances.

Sri Lanka, left with 13 overs batting before the close, failed to emerge unscathed. Mahanama could not get his bat out of the way of a rising ball from McGrath and was well caught by Mark Taylor at first slip. It was the Australia captain's hundredth catch in Test cricket.



Steve Waugh: injured

SCOREBOARD FROM MELBOURNE

AUSTRALIA: First Innings

M J Slater c Wickremasinghe b Vaas	62
*M A Taylor b Wickremasinghe	7
D C Boon c Muralitharan b Wickremasinghe	110
M E Waugh b Muralitharan	61
S R Waugh not out	131
R T Ponting c Gurusinha b de Silva	71
†I A Healy c Muralitharan b de Silva	41
P R Reiffel not out	4
Extras (lb 8, w 2, nb 3)	13
Total (6 wkts dec)	500

S K Warne, C J McDermott, G D McGrath did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-116, 3-219, 4-280, 5-395, 6-488

BOWLING: Wickremasinghe 30.2-9-77-2, Vaas 40 4-11-93-1, Hathurusinghe 9-0-23-0, Gurusinha 2-0-8-0; Muralitharan 38-7-124-1, Silva 35-5-120-1; de Silva 10-0-47-1.

SRI LANKA: First Innings

R S Mahanama c Taylor b McGrath	3
U C Hathurusinghe not out	16
A P Gurusinha not out	10
Total (1 wkt)	29

*A Ranatunga, P A de Silva, H P Tillekeratne, †R S Kaluwitharana, W P U J C Vaas, K J Silva, G P Wickremasinghe and M Muralitharan to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-3.

BOWLING: McDermott 4-1-12-0, McGrath 6-2-10-1, Reiffel 3-1-7-0

Umpires: D Hair (Australia) and S Dunne (New Zealand)

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RADIO CHOICE

With Berkoff, not by him

Berkoff's Macbeth. *Radio 4, 7.20pm.*

I trust this sort of thing does not get out of hand. Not even Olivier dared proclaim his film as *Olivier's Henry V*. True, there was *Hitchcock's The Birds*, but that was because of the man's incurable egocentricity. So, David Benedictus's terrific production is, give or take a few text cuts, Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, with Berkoff's contribution limited to playing the bloody Thane of Cawdor. Some limitation! Berkoff's would-be throne-grabber is now a whispering, now a roaring, creature. A portrayal fashioned on the stage transfers impressively to radio. *Berkoff's Macbeth* economises on its witches. Cleo Laine plays all three.

Meridian. *BBC World Service, 9.30pm.*

After ten minutes of *Meridian*'s literary quiz, I began wondering whether the panel should not have changed places with the audience who are a most knowledgeable lot. Fortunately the experts eventually pull themselves together and help their chairman Christopher Cook to wriggle off a hook on which he must have dangled uncomfortably. Those taking part are *Meridian* presenters Harriett Gilbert and Michael Rosen, journalist Michael Bywater and critic and novelist Susan Jeffreys. I *did* enjoy the quiz's novel-in-a-headline round. Of what classic would you say that "Sugar daddy was a baddie, squeaks Pip" is a clever tabloid précis? No prizes for coming up with the correct answer, I'm afraid.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Claire Sturgess 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Nicky Campbell 3.00pm Dave Pearce 6.00 Newsbeat Review 95 7.00 Evening Session Rewind 9.00 *Soundbite*, with Danny Kelly 10.00 REM Live at the Bowl (r) 12.00 Mark Tonderai including at 12.15am The Net

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Roger Royle 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn reflects on conversations with more than 200 guests 7.00 Change at Oglethorpe. Comedy-drama series with Peter Davison and Michael Williams 7.30 David Allan with the best in country music 9.00 Paul Jones 9.45 The Gospel Train 10.30 Martin Kelner 12.05am Sue McGarry including at 1.30 Pause for Thought 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.05am This Sporting Life in the Movies (r) 6.05 Hold the Front Page 7.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine 10.10 Gulf Reaction, plus Euronews 11.05 I'll Eat My Hat 11.35 Pioneers and Presidents (2/3) 12.00 Midday with Mair 12.34pm Moneycheck 1.15 Entertainment News 2.05 *Ruscoe on Five* 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 On the Line 8.05 Women on Top 9.05 SportsAmerica, from San Francisco 10.05 The Other Honours List 11.35 Ages of Being 11.35 Spaced Out 12.05am Night Moves 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf 7.30 Network UK 8.00 News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 Composer of the Month 8.45 Good Books 9.00 News in German 9.15 Sports International 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Sinatra 12.00 News 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Assignment 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 Multitrack 3.00 News in German 3.15 The Learning World 3.30 Network UK 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 Business 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 *News Summary* 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 John Peel 8.00 Newshour 9.00 News 9.05 Business 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Meridian. See Choice 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Network UK 11.45 Health Matters Midnight Newsdesk 12.30am On the Move 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press 1.15 Choirs of Angels 1.45 Global Concerns 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Thirty-Minute Drama 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 Focus on Faith 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Mike Read 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Family Concert 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 The Travel Guide. New York-Vista 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Sally Peterson

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Paganini (Violin Concerto in B minor); 6.33 *Symphony Series*: Mozart (Symphony No 40 in G minor); Rossini (Overture, La Cenerentola); Ravenscroft (The Three Ravens); 8.05 Haydn (Piano Sonata in G minor); Gounod (Petite Symphonie in B flat)
9.00 **Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini.** Tchaikovsky, orch Stravinsky (Bluebird Pas de Deux, The Sleeping Beauty); Rossini (La *Cenerentola, excerpts*); Mozart (Piano Sonata in A minor); Prokofiev (Cinderella, Act 3)
10.00 **Musical Encounters.** Holst (This have I done for my true love); Ravel (Shéhérazade); Beethoven (Sonata in A flat); Bach (Brandenburg Concerto No 4 in G); 10.55 Hadley (La belle dame sans merci); Frank Martin (Petite Symphonie Concertante); Holst (Masters in this hall)
12.00 **Composer of the Week.** Saint-Saëns (Le Rouet d'Omphale; Violin Sonata No 1 in D minor; Le Déluge, excerpts) (r)
1.00pm **British Opera Matinée: Tom Jones**, recorded at the Drottningholm Festival in Sweden Drottningholm Theatre Chorus and Orchestra under Nicholas McGegan perform François-André Philidor's opera, based on the novel by Henry Fielding. With Judith Howarth and Greg Fedderly Sung in English
3.20 **Opus 20.** Scott Stroman conducts the chamber orchestra in Copland (Nonet); Ives (Hymn); Jolivet (Yin Yang); Copland (Quiet City); Honegger (Symphony No 2)
5.00 **The Music Machine** Indian classical music (r)
5.15 **Fairest Isle Songbook.** Iain Burnside considers songs depicting ideal lifestyles (r)
5.30 **Fairest Isle: The BBC Orchestras.** BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Grant Llewellyn. Alun Hoddinott (Lanterne des morts); Moeran (Violin Concerto: Tasmin Little) (r)
6.20 **Fairest Isle: Musca Brittanica.** Blow (O sing unto the Lord a new song); Boyce (Overture, Ode for the New Year); Greene (Ode on St Cecilia's Day) (r)
7.30 **Amsterdam Mahler Festival.** The ninth of 15 concerts. Marjana Lipovsek, contralto; Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra under Bernard Haitink performs Kindertotenlieder; Symphony No 6)
9.45 **The Fortunate Cat.** Roy Fisher and Mel Hill discuss whether a powerful left hand is as great an asset for a poet as it is for a jazz pianist
9.55 **Fairest Isle: Byrd and Purcell.** Phantasm under Laurence Dreyfus performs Byrd (In Nomines); Purcell (Fantasies) (r)
10.45 **The Shellac Show.** Music on 78s, including Balfe, Brahms and Ireland
11.30-12.30am **The BBC Orchestras.** BBC Symphony Orchestra under Andrew Davis performs Purcell, arr Britten (Chaconny in G minor). Fricker (Litany for Double String Orchestra); Kancheli (Symphony No 6)

RADIO 4

5.55am *Shipping (LW)* 6.00 News 6.03 Weather 6.10 Farming Today. Anna Hill looks at the British wool industry 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 Sports News 7.45 Thought for the Day
8.40 **A Christmas Carol**, by Charles Dickens. Read by Richard Wilson (4/5) 8.56 Weather
9.00-10.00, 11.00-4.00pm **Test Match Special** (LW only) South Africa v England in the fourth Test
9.00 **News** (FM only) 9.05 **The Moral Maze** (FM)
10.00-10.30 **News; King Street Junior** (4/6) (r)
10.00 **Daily Service** (LW only)
10.15 **Children's BBC Radio 4: A Ghost for Christmas.** Edward De Souza reads *The Investigators* by David Belbin
10.30 **Walters's Festive Frolics.** John Walters has a relaxing break at a retreat in Dorset
NB: **The following are on FM only until 4pm.**
11.00 **News; Please Leave a Message after the Bleep.** Simon Parkes on the science of sound and the psychology behind the siren
11.30 **At Bertram's Hotel**, by Agatha Christie. With June Whitfield as Miss Marple (4/5)
12.00 **News; Trumpton Riots.** Sally James recalls Blue Peter and Magpie in the 1970s
12.25pm **Wordly Wise.** Peter Hobday is joined by Germaine Greer, Simon Brett, Lorelei King and Richard Stilgoe 12.55 Weather
1.00 **The World at One** (FM, LW)
1.40 **The Archers** (r) 1.55 Shipping Forecast
2.00 **News; Theo**, by Moya O'Shea. Martin Jarvis as a 1908 Steiff teddy bear who is put up to auction by his latest owner, Roland, a long-distance lorry driver
3.30 ***Kaleidoscope*: Miller's Tales** (3/4) (r)
4.00 **News 4.05 Radio Lives.** Kenny Everett (r)
4.45 **Christmas Short Story: Dicky Disaster**, by Lynne Bryan. Read by Charlotte Coleman
5.00 **PM** 5.50 *Shipping Forecast* 5.55 Weather
6.00 **News 6.15 It's Your Go!** Monopoly (2/4)
6.30 **Old Harry's Game.** The final part of Andy Hamilton's comedy series
7.00 **News 7.05 The Archers**
7.20 **Berkoff's Macbeth.** See Choice
9.30 **Kaleidoscope Feature.** Quentin Cooper on the British film location industry (r) 9.59 Weather
10.00 **The World Tonight**
10.45 **Book at Bedtime: Memo from David O. Selznick.** Read by Henry Goodman
11.00 **Ray Bradbury Introduces Tales of the Bizarre.** *The Fruit at the Bottom of the Bowl*, dramatised by Brian Sibley (4/5)
11.30 **Ad Lib.** Robert Robinson finds out what it is like to live in the shadow of fame (r)
12.00 **News**, incl 12.27am Weather
12.30 **The Late Book: Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow.** Read by Siobhan Redmond (9/15)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 **As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

هدية من الأهل

All that jazz turned out to be a work of Art

The truth of many situations in life is this: that there is only one chance to get them right. Since, daily, we can hardly bear the thought of such responsibility, we make light of it. But then something good and heart-stopping such as last night's **A Great Day in Harlem** (BBC2) comes along, or **Jobs for the Girls** (BBCl), and strings your guts into a cat's cradle. "Let it be all right," you pray, perching on the edge of the chair. In *A Great Day in Harlem*, a young photographer in 1958 had a single opportunity to take a landmark picture of all the top jazz musicians in New York City. If he found afterwards that there was no film in his camera, he would have to run away to Sweden. Meanwhile, I was so worried on behalf of Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson, arranging a swanky charity party for the Duchess of York's Children in Crisis, that my guts ended up strung imaginatively ("Ta-dah!") in a surprisingly lifelike representation of the Humber Bridge.

A Great Day in Harlem was an exemplary documentary — low-key, affectionate, informative. And just like the Pauline and Linda show, its story involved the alarming nerve of naivety. *Esquire* magazine commissioned the young Art Kane to take a picture: he contacted all the jazz musicians in the city and asked them to report at 10am for a photocall. Everyone said he was mad. Apart from anything else, jazz players wake up like vampires at sunset: they have no idea that there are two ten o'clocks in the same day. But then, by a kind of miracle, all the legends turned out in daylight — Lester Young, Thelonius Monk, Count Basie, Rex Stewart with a trumpet. And Kane got his picture, which made his career.

The camera roamed around the picture, sometimes magnifying sections of it, sometimes using other complementary shots taken by the musicians themselves. This was a fine occasion for all concerned — a great day in Harlem, indeed. Just as they rarely saw daylight, these drummers and horn-players also rarely got a chance to see each other. Standing on the other side of the street from the jolly surprise party he had unwittingly organised, Kane said he had never felt so lonely in his life. We learnt nothing about the technical aspects of his picture — the shutter speed, the camera, the number of shots. What makes it a great image is that Kane had his one chance, and he took it.

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

Pauline and Linda's *Jobs for the Girls* started out as a four-part series last spring but has now perhaps become occasional. This is OK with me: the more Pauline and Linda, the better. The secret of *Jobs* is to set these women a seemingly easy task — learn to fish, write a story for a newspaper, sing *Rule Britannia*, arrange a party — and then depict the genuine acid-forming anxiety caused by a real, unavoidable deadline.

Along the way P&L laughingly consult experts famous through television — last night, Raymond Blanc, Jilly Goolden, Anneka Rice. But the celebrity of these folk is treated lightly, besides which they are merely foils for the good-natured cockney wit of the girls. No one watches *Jobs for the Girls* for Anneka Rice. They watch it for Pauline Quirke yelling, nervous and windswept, from the back seat of Rice's speeding buggy: "Annie, when you're torking to us, do you want to look at us froo the mirra!" When Jilly Goolden says it's all right to drink red wine with chicken ("It's a very forgiving bird"), Pauline comments saucily: "Rather like yourself, Jilly."

"Sauce" is a word too little used these days. It seems to hark back to Dickensian days when crowds shouted "Gammon!" But the sauce of Pauline and Linda is their unique attraction: it makes everybody else look good too. Last night the Duchess of York was shown presiding over hilarious meetings, then giggling between Pauline and Linda at dinner, and generally coming out of it very well indeed. She was elegant and glamorous (the girls do not compete): she also appeared gracious and warm. "What price *Panorama* now?" one asks oneself.

A sensible attitude to length was the main strength of Alexei Sayle's romantic comedy **Sorry About Last Night** (BBCl). It came out at 50 minutes, stopping smartly just after the ideas ran out. Sayle cast himself as Andy, a former soldier borrowing his brother's suit for a first date with Julie (Siobhan Redmond). But it would be fair to say that characterisation was not the strong point in his performance, and that when tempted to switch into regular rant-in-a-suit mode, artistic conscience did not prevent him. "Do you know why we have these stupid licensing laws in England?" he demanded, rhetorically. "So that we don't lose the First World War!"

The story was simple, though not particularly convincing. Andy and Julie wanted to prove that they were not past it: so they scoured London for after-hours drinks, and the drama proceeded by means of neat, short episodes, all inconsequential but many of them hilarious. In particular, Alun Armstrong turned in a brilliant comic scene as a limping, gap-toothed, twitching minicab driver with an eye-patch and prosthetic hand. Just like Anneka Rice, alas, he forgot to address his passengers froo the mirra.

"I was a stunt man with a difference," he yelled cheerfully to Andy and Julie in the back as his squealing car swerved up the kerb. "I didn't take any safety precautions. I just used to get orribly urt." They swapped glances while he continued. "Did you see *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*? Bloke run over by a tank?" They nodded miserably. "That was me."

BBC 1

7.00am News (Ceefax) and weather (4723157)

7.10 Toy Symphony (r) (s) (2349515) **7.35 Favourite Songs** (r) (7263515) **8.00 News** (Ceefax) (4076751) **8.10 Joe 90** (r) (5808138) **8.35 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (Ceefax) (7061409) **9.00 News** (Ceefax) (5137480) **9.05 Global Gatecrash** (s) (8263664) **9.30 Stone Protectors** (r) (89374) **10.00 Playdays** (s) (5286765) **10.25 William's Wish Wellingtons** (r) (s) (5192461)

10.30 FILM: The Three Musketeers (1973). Family viewing with Michael York, Raquel Welch, Oliver Reed, Richard Chamberlain, Charlton Heston, Faye Dunaway, Frank Finlay, Christopher Lee, Spike Milligan and Roy Kinnear. Directed by Richard Lester (Ceefax) (28048374)

12.15pm Disneytime: Dannii on Safari Dannii Minogue in Tanzania (s) (8016044)

12.55 Regional News (12901799) **1.00 One O'Clock News** (48462916)

1.10 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (89910374)

1.30 Cartoon (15013461)

1.40 The Borrowers. With Ian Holm (1/2) (r) (Ceefax) (6773765)

3.05 FILM: Superman III (1983, PG) with Christopher Reeve. Superman battles to stop magnate Ross Webster (Robert Vaughn) taking over the world. Directed by Richard Lester (Ceefax) (81738916)

5.05 Newsround Review of the Year. (Ceefax) (2073041)

5.35 Neighbours. A distracted Annalise receives a proposal from Mark. (r) (Ceefax) (s) (406374)

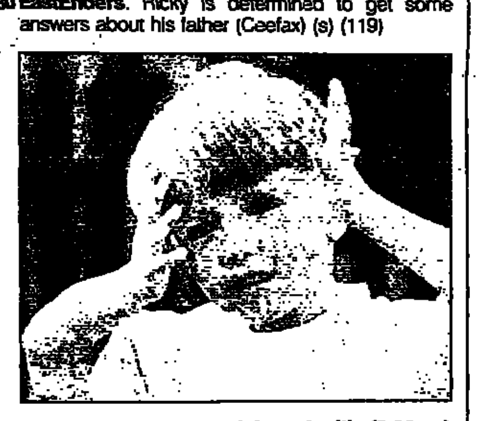
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (984770)

6.15 Regional News magazines (989225)

6.30 Telly Addicts Christmas Special. Two celebrity teams test their knowledge of television (Ceefax) (s) (935)

7.00 Big Break. Snooker frolics with a festive theme. (Ceefax) (s) (3570)

7.30 EastEnders. Ricky is determined to get some answers about his father (Ceefax) (s) (119)



Jay Williams has bacterial meningitis (8.00pm)

8.00 CHOICE **Great Ormond Street.** Start of a 20-week series from the central London hospital for children (s) (6190)

8.30 The Lenny Henry Christmas Show. (Ceefax) (s) (5225)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (6935)

9.30 CHOICE **Billy Connolly: A Scot in the Arctic** (Ceefax) (s) (911916)

10.20 They Think It's All Over. An extended edition of the sporting game show (Ceefax) (s) (272799)

11.00 Review of the Year 1995. With newsreader John Humphrys, (Ceefax) (s) (135664)

12.15am FILM: Carry On Behind (1975) with Kenneth Williams, Sid James, Elke Sommer, Kenneth Connor: Professor Crump has enlisted a band of students to investigate the remains of a Roman encampment in Britain. Directed by Gerald Thomas (445981)

1.45 Weather (2609504) **WALES: 1.45** News headlines and weather (2609504)

BBC 2

7.05am FILM: The Great Dictator (b/w 1940) A satire on Nazi Germany, starring and directed by Charlie Chaplin (34375461)

9.05 FILM: What Price Hollywood? (b/w 1932) with Constance Bennett Directed by George Cukor (7003041)

10.30 The Voyage of Charles Darwin (r) (3/6) (52119)

11.30 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures — Planet Earth, an Explorer's Guide. (47428)

12.30pm The River of Sound (2/3) (56935)

1.30 What Did You Do in the War, Auntie? (colour and b/w) The BBC during the Second World War (r) (s) (97586848)

3.10 FILM: Fiddler on the Roof (1971). Family musical directed by Norman Jewison (Ceefax) (64808867)

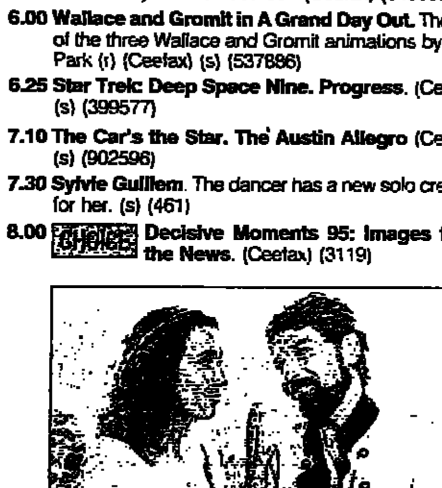
6.00 Wallace and Gromit in A Grand Day Out. The first of the three Wallace and Gromit animations by Nick Park (r) (Ceefax) (s) (537886)

6.25 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine. Progress. (Ceefax) (s) (399577)

7.10 The Car's the Star. The Austin Allegro (Ceefax) (s) (902596)

7.30 Sylvie Guillem. The dancer has a new solo created for her. (s) (461)

8.00 CHOICE **Decisive Moments 95: Images from the News.** (Ceefax) (3119)



Emma Thompson, Kenneth Branagh (9.00pm)

9.00 FILM: Much Ado About Nothing (1993) with Kenneth Branagh, Emma Thompson, Denzel Washington and Keanu Reeves. Highly acclaimed screen version of Shakespeare's comedy. At the home of Leonato, governor of Messina, a group of men gather after a successful campaign in a war. One of them, Claudio, falls for the host's daughter, Hero, and a marriage is arranged. The rest try to trick Leonato's niece, Beatrice, and one of the soldiers, Benedick, into admitting that they are in love with each other. Directed by Kenneth Branagh (s) (94438157)

10.50 Trick on Two. With the magician Fay Presto. (Ceefax) (s) (508916)

11.00 FILM: Man of the West (1958) with Gary Cooper. A reformed outlaw, Link Jones (Gary Cooper) finds himself forced to return to his old ways when a ruthless gang begins terrorising his neighbourhood. Directed by Anthony Mann (941848)

12.35am Unplugged with Bjork. The Icelandic pop singer in concert (s) (7844691)

1.20 FILM: The Big Knife (b/w 1955) with Jack Palance. A savage portrayal of life in Hollywood, based on the play by Clifford Odets. Directed by Robert Aldrich (566252) **3.00 Weather** (76637146)

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CHOICE



Billy Connolly is out in the cold (BBC1, 9.30pm)

Billy Connolly: A Scot in the Arctic
BBC1, 9.30pm

In a companion piece to Joanna Lumley's television sojourn on a desert island, Billy Connolly takes himself off to the frozen far north of Canada. He pitches his tent for a week, initially under the eye of the camera crew. When they withdraw, Connolly is the only living creature for miles. All is silence, with nothing but glaciers and six-foot-thick ice for company. Connolly records his experiences on a video camera and treats us to a daily diary. "I'm not much of an Alistair Cooke," he says, "I just waffle." But it is high-class waffle, and full of surprises. He even takes an Arctic bath, gambolling in the snow with nothing on except his boots. It is a long way to go for a one-man show but this is one of Connolly's best.

Great Ormond Street
BBC1, 8.00pm

If you thought you had seen the last of hospital documentaries for 1995, along comes yet another. And, since the series is destined to run for 20 weeks, a good part of 1996 is already medically spoken for. The focus on Great Ormond Street means stories of sick children and their worried parents. Tonight's featured patient is a three-year-old, Jay Williams. He is admitted with bacterial meningitis. It is infecting his brain and spine and could threaten his life. The message of the programme is that the youngster is in exceptionally good hands. He is dealt with immediately, a bed is found and an operation carried out the next day. Great Ormond Street could hardly wish for a more ringing endorsement.

Decisive Moments 95
BBC2, 8.00pm

It is ironic that two of the most famous press photographs of 1995 were taken by non-journalists. One, a mug-shot of Hugh Grant looking sheepish after being caught with a prostitute, reached the papers courtesy of the Los Angeles Police Department. The other, of a fireman cradling a mortally injured baby after the bomb attack in Oklahoma City, was the work of two amateurs who happened to be on the spot. These, and other images of the year, are used to illuminate the processes by which the press gets its photographs, how it uses them and how, in some cases, it decides not to use them. Perhaps surprisingly, *The Sun* was one of the few British papers not to carry the picture of the Oklahoma baby. We hear why.

McCallum
ITV, 9.30pm

Played by John Hannah, the Scottish actor who appeared in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, McCallum is a forensic pathologist. But unlike those of his profession who normally turn up in television dramas, he is no austere figure in a white coat who confines his activities to the mortuary. Hardly has the body of a murdered Vietnamese banker been fished out of the Thames than our hero is bedding the attractive woman detective investigating the case. Since he already has a steady girlfriend, his private life gets, well, tangled. *After a muddled start, this somewhat dour thriller picks up pace and, despite improbabilities, grips to the end. Expect a series to follow if this pilot is well received.* **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

6.00am GMTV, including a workout with Mr Motivator **8.55 Power Rangers** (8181848)

9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man. Queen's Gambit (r). (8278596)

9.50 Batman — The Animated Series. I've Got Batman in My Basement. (s) (1859374)

10.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (3718139)

10.30 Skates of Gold (r) (49645)

11.30 The Magic of David Copperfield: The Bermuda Triangle (r) (4022409)

12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (8112461)

12.30 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (2987799)

12.55 Christmas in Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (8877848)

2.00 FILM: Daffy Duck's Quackbusters animated parody of the *Ghostbusters* Directed by Greg Ford and Terry Lennon (1989) (8049645)

3.15 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (8696596)

3.20 London Today (Teletext) (8693409)

3.25 FILM: Big (1988) starring Tom Hanks A 13-year-old gets half his wish at a carnival — physically he becomes an adult, emotionally he's *still* a teenager Directed by Penny Marshall (Teletext) (s) (19146954)

5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating Followed by The Missing File (Teletext) (2067480)

5.40 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (770596)

5.55 Your Shout Viewers air their views (257138)

6.00 Home and Away Special: Shane and Angel's Wedding (Teletext) (751)

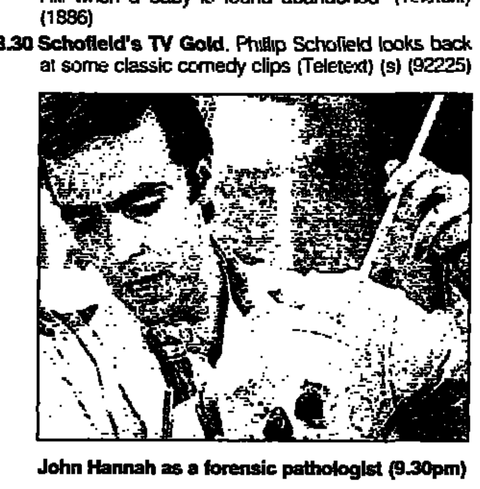
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (913)

7.00 Back to School, Mr Bean (r) (s) (2138)

7.30 Emmerdale. Kim takes control as Frank fights for his life. (Teletext) (515)

8.00 The Bill: Ties that Bind. Opinion is divided in Sun Hill when a baby is found abandoned (Teletext) (1886)

8.30 Schofield's TV Gold. Phillip Schofield looks back at some classic comedy clips (Teletext) (s) (92225)



John Hannah as a forensic pathologist (9.30pm)

9.30 CHOICE **McCallum: The Key to My Heart.** (Teletext) (11206)

11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (941732)

11.15 London Tonight (Teletext) (232596)

11.25 FILM: True Identity (1991) Lenny Henry's Hollywood debut as an aspiring black actor who gets the chance to play his toughest role. Directed by Charles Lane. (Teletext) (s) (946393)

1.05am FILM: The Bride (1985). Sting, Jennifer Beals, David Rappaport and Alexei Sayle in a remake of the Frankenstein tale. Not very scary, quite funny. Directed by Franc Roddam. (s) (95861349)

3.20 The Panasonic Sound Blast Awards 1995. Live from the Grand, Clapham, southwest London (s) (5887252)

4.20 On the Live Side. (r). (s) (90816252)

4.45 FILM: Follow the Leader (1944 b/w). Another in the Bowery Boys series directed by William Beaufine (3043233)

5.55 ITN Morning News (7240964). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.40am Ulysses 31 (r) (1613954) **7.05 The Adventures Of T-Rex** (r) (2317916) **7.30 Little Dracula** (r) (35190)

8.00 The Big Breakfast (24596)

10.00 Saved by the Bell: The New Class (r). (Teletext) (9781175)

10.25 Babylon 5. Sci-fi (r). (Teletext) (s) (3065393)

11.20 California Dreams teen drama (r) (2476995)

11.45 Biker Mice From Mars (s) (2145664) **12.10pm The Super Mario Bros** (r) (3877138) **12.20 Dennis** (r) (8110003) **12.30 Sesame Street** (41003)

1.30 The Air Globes. A woman's reflections on her Colombian childhood (15020751)

1.45 FILM: The Bishop's Wife (1947, b/w) starring Cary Grant, David Niven and Loretta Young. A fantasy-comedy directed by Henry Koster (722393)

3.45 FILM: The Agony and the Ecstasy (1965) starring Charlton Heston, Rex Harrison and Diane Cilento. Directed by Carol Reed (Teletext) (28566312)

6.00 Home Improvement. American comedy series starring Tim Allen as the host of a television do-it-yourself show. (Teletext) (s) (393)

6.30 New Gamesmaster. Video games and technology magazine (s) (645)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) Weather (3480)

7.30 Wild Britain: The Best of Both Worlds. The trials and tribulations of frogs and newts (r) (s) (157)

8.00 Fierce and Gentle Creatures. A documentary about animal conservation at Jersey Zoo presented by John Cleese with Jamie Lee Curtis and Kevin Kline. (Teletext) (s) (1515)

9.00 Only When I Laugh. Final episode of the hospital comedy (r). (Ceefax) (9645)



Johnny Depp sharpens up his act (9.30pm)

9.30 FILM: Edward Scissorhands (1990) starring Johnny Depp, Winona Ryder, Dianne Wiest and Alan Arkin. A fantasy-comedy about a man-made boy built by an inventor (Vincent Price) who dies before he can change his creation's sharp metal shears into hands. Directed by Tim Burton (50683) Followed by **The X mas Files: The Swan.** The ballet of the dying swan from Saint-Saëns's *Carnival of the Animals* is interrupted by T-Rex's *Ride a White Swan*

11.30 FILM: Eyewitness (1981) starring William Hurt, Sigourney Weaver, Christopher Plummer and James Woods. A thriller about the caretaker of a building in which there is a murder, who becomes infatuated with a television news reporter. Directed by Peter Yates (11634)

1.30am FILM: Sherlock Holmes and the Spider Woman (1944, b/w) starring Basil Rathbone, Nigel Bruce and Gale Sondergaard. Roy William Neill directs (3029558)

2.40 Rawhide (b/w). (r) (5358436)

3.35 Jools at the Ritz. Jools Holland and his 21-piece Rhythm and Blues Orchestra are joined by Roland Gift, Laverne Brown, Mica Paris and Ruby Turner (r) (s) (7554184)

4.35 The World of Hammer. Narrated by Oliver Reed (r) (54374788). Ends at **5.05**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.20pm-12.30 Anglia News (8112461) **3.20-3.25** Anglia News and Weather. (8693409) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2067480) **6.25** Anglia Weather (421886) **6.30-7.00** Anglia News (913) **11.15-11.25** Anglia News (232596) **1.05am** Film: Detour to Terror (298829) **2.55** Entertainment Now (5355349) **3.50** It's Christmas, It's Number One (9234542) **4.45** Film: Bowery Champs (3043233)

CENTRAL
As London except: 10.25-10.30 Central News (5127157) **12.20pm-12.30** Central News and Weather (8112461) **3.20-3.25** Central News (8693409) **5.10-5.40** Shortland Street (2067480) **6.00** Home and Away (524312) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (658732) **11.15-11.25** Central News and Weather (232596)

GRANADA
As London except: 10.25-10.30 Granada News (5127157) **11.25** Murder, She Wrote (4736598) **12.20pm-12.30** Granada News (8112461) **12.55** Christmas in Emmerdale (8877848) **2.00-3.15** Film: Daffy Duck's Quackbusters (8049645) **3.20-3.25** Granada News (8693409) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2067480) **6.25** Granada News (421886) **6.30-7.00** Granada Tonight Special (913) **7.30-8.00** Emmerdale (515) **11.15-11.25** Granada News (232596) **1.05am** Film: The Bride (95861349) **3.20** The Panasonic Sound Blast Awards 1995 (5887252) **4.20** On the Live Side (90816252) **4.45** Film: Follow The Leader (3043233)

HTV WEST
As London except: 10.25am-10.30 HTV West Headlines (5127157) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV West News and Weather (8112461) **12.55** Shortland Street (2955190) **1.25-2.00** Coronation Street (1824225) **3.20-3.25** HTV West Headlines (8693409) **5.10-5.40** A Country Practice (2067480) **6.30-7.00** HTV News (913) **11.15-11.25** HTV West Headlines and Weather (232596)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 10.25am-10.30 HTV News (5127157) **12.20pm-12.30** HTV Wales News and Weather (8112461) **3.20-3.25** HTV News (8693409) **6.30-7.00** Wales Tonight (913) **11.15-11.25** HTV News (232596)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 10.25am-10.30 Meridian News and Weather (5127157) **12.20pm-12.30** Meridian News and Weather (8112461) **3.20-3.25** Meridian News and Weather (8693409) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away Special (2067480) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (751) **6.30-7.00** Action Station (913) **11.15-11.25** Meridian News and Weather (232596) **1.05am** Film: Detour to Terror (298829) **2.55** Entertainment Now (5355349) **3.50** It's Christmas, It's Number One (9234542) **4.45** Film: Bowery Champs (3043233)

TYNE TEES
As London except: 10.25-10.30 Tyne Tees News (5127157) **12.20pm-12.30** Tyne Tees News (8112461) **3.20-3.25** Tyne Tees News (8693409) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away Special (2067480) **5.55** Tyne Tees Today / Network North (952935) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (913) **11.15-11.25** Tyne Tees News (232596) **4.20am** Film: Kavik the Wolf Dog (415165)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 10.25-10.30 Westcountry News (5127157) **12.20pm-12.30** Westcountry News (8112461) **3.20-3.25** Westcountry News; Weather (8693409) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away Special (2067480) **6.00** Westcountry Live (751) **6.30-7.00** Drums in the Sun (913) **11.15-11.25** Westcountry News, Weather (232596)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 10.25am-10.30 Calendar News and Weather (5127157) **12.20pm-12.30** Calendar News and Weather (8112461) **3.20-3.25** Calendar News (8693409) **5.10-5.40** Home and Away Special (2067480) **5.55** Calendar / Network North (952935) **6.30-7.00** Blockbusters (913) **11.15-11.25** Calendar News and Weather (232596) **4.20am** Film: Kavik the Wolf Dog (415165)

S4C
Starts: 7.05 The Adventures Of T-Rex r (2317916) **7.30** Little Dracula r (35190) **8.00** The Big Breakfast (24596) **10.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class r (9781175) **10.25** Babylon 5 Mind War (3065393) **11.20** California Dreams r (2476995) **11.45** Ken Russell's Treasure Island (6773732) **1.00pm** Siot Meithrin: Twm Chwith r (55954) **1.30** The Air Globes (15020751) **1.45** Film: The Bishop's Wife (722393) **3.45** Film: The Agony And The Ecstasy (28566312) **6.00** Newyddion 6/News (993428) **6.10** 5 Pump: Uned 5 - Amdeith (331428) **7.00** Ma Ilan Ma (519664) **7.30** Cyw Haul (530428) **8.20** Newyddion/News (360916) **8.30** Syr Ifan Ab (8160393) **9.40** John Cleese And Other Animals (755288) **10.40** Film: A Private Function (17176577) **12.25am** The Great Ape Trial (5751813)

● For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
7.00am DJ Kat (71190) **8.00** Mighty Morphin (17683) **8.30** Press Your Luck (16954) **9.00** Court TV (55026) **9.30** Oprah Winfrey (83916) **10.30** Concentration (96190) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (71916) **12.00** Jeopardy (10770) **12.30pm** Murphy Brown (34848) **1.00** The Waltons (22003) **2.00** Geraldo (48190) **3.00** Court TV (8577) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (8179393) **4.20** Mighty Morphin (3232138) **4.45** The Gruesome Grannies (5318157) **5.00** Star Trek (2157) **6.00** The Simpsons (1111) **6.30** Jeopardy (1393) **7.00** LAPD (3886) **7.30** M*A*S*H (7577) **8.00** The Bible: Joseph (89312) **10.00** Star Trek (75119) **11.00** Law and Order (92409) **12.00** David Letterman (8608691) **12.45am** The Untouchables (6053542) **1.30** The Edge (81542) **2.00-6.00** Hit Mix (7558233)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour
6.00am Sunrise (9438157) **10.30** ABC Nightline (94732) **11.00** Business (36732) **11.30** Year in Review — Royalty (41461) **1.30pm** CBS News (77867) **2.30** CBS News (24954) **3.30** Beyond 2000 (9799) **4.00** Business (8206) **4.30** Year in Review — Russia (7190) **5.00** Live at Five (95409) **6.30** Tonight (78995) **7.30** Year in Review — Royalty (53886) **8.30** Worldwide Report (9683) **9.00** Business (58596) **9.30** Year in Review — Russia (76645) **11.30** CBS News (27916) **12.30am** ABC News (13639) **1.30** Adam Boulton Replay (61097) **2.30** Newsmaker (38894) **3.30** Beyond 2000 (40639) **4.30** CBS News (88981) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (68417)

SKY MOVIES
6.00am Showcase (97751) **8.00 Farewell, My Lovely (1944)** (82770) **10.00 Two for the Road (1967)** (38684) **12.00 Hot Shots! Part Deux (1993)** (604995) **1.50pm The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm (1962)** (99056409) **4.00 Samurai Cowboy (1993)** (7461) **6.00 Addams Family Values (1993)** (97827003) **7.40 US Top Ten** (417003) **8.00 Hot Shots! Part Deux (1993)** (74480) **10.00 Nowhere to Run (1993)** (878393) **11.35 Revenge of the Nerds II: Nerds in Paradise (1987)** (327969) **1.05am Choices of the Heart: the Margaret Sanger Story (1994)** (9782389) **2.35 Dangerous Heart (1993)** (4667707) **4.05-6.00 Two for the Road (1967)** (458610)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
4.00pm The Devil is a Woman (1935) (6393) **6.00 High Society (1956)** (68667) **8.00 The President's Analyst (1967)** (63312) **10.00 First Blood (1982)** (701022) **11.45 Firecreek (1968)** (780206) **1.30-3.50am Frances (1982)** (77704233)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am A Time to Heal (1994) (95393) **8.00 The Jetsons Meet the Flintstones (1987)** (60312) **10.00 Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (1938)** (36206) **12.00 Gunga Din (1939)** (60935) **2.00pm Seduced by Evil (1994)** (80041) **4.00 Yogi Bear and the Magic Flight of the Spruce Goose** (5003) **6.00 MacGyver: The Lost Treasure of Atlantis (1994)** (77577) **8.00 The Paper (1994)** (72022) **10.00 The Movie Show** (11409) **10.30 In the Line of Fire (1993)** (10326003) **12.40am Auto Erotica (1993).** (6456891) **2.05 Saigon (1988)** (278900) **3.50-6.00 With Harmful Intent (1993)** (12777165)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Umbrella Tree (45024577) **6.30** Muppet Babies (33036916) **7.00** Pooh (36899374) **7.30** Ducktales (36818409) **8.00** Chip (29271206) **8.30** Wonderland (29270577) **9.00** Fraggle (29294157) **9.30** Pooh Corner (63002461) **10.00** Dumbo (33050596) **10.30** Quack Attack (29283041) **11.00** Walt Disney Presents (36827157) **12.00** Sinbad Show (29274393) **12.30pm** Torkelsons (63013577) **1.00** Faerie Tale Theatre (63001732) **2.00** Wonderland (70847867) **2.30** Umbrella Tree (62835225) **3.00** Fraggle Rock (70826374) **3.30** Pooh (62830770) **4.00** Quack Attack (62826577) **4.30** Ducktales (62815461) **5.00** Chip (70835119) **5.30** Danger Bay (62839041) **6.00** Tarzan (62836954) **6.30** Dinosaurs (82827206) **7.00** Mickey's Christmas Carol (48749848) **7.45** FILM: Having a Wonderful Time (73236867) **9.00-10.00** Robert Mitchum (68998225)

EUROSPORT
7.30am Equestrianism (68044) **8.30** Euroski (43683) **9.00** Tennis (95157) **10.00** Cycling (20206) **11.00** Football (33770) **12.00** Formula One (75770) **1.00pm** Skiing (44886) **1.30** Triathlon (35119) **3.00** Rally (79461) **4.00** Truck (98596) **5.00** Olympic Magazine (1206) **5.30** Ski Jumping (79916) **6.30** Equestrianism (25897616) **8.45** News **9.00** Football (26867) **11.00** Golf (21935) **12.00-12.30am** News (64720)

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Sports Centre (27119) **7.30** Racing News (39954) **8.00** Cricket. South Africa v England (5264393) **3.30pm** WDC World Darts (418751) **6.00** Sports Centre (3157) **6.30** Rugby Union (4409) **7.00** Darts (116041) **10.00** Sports Centre (20732) **10.30** WDC World Darts (59358) **12.00** Rugby Union (12252) **12.30am** Sports Unlimited (42726) **1.30-2.00** Sports Centre (99418)



High Society stars Grace Kelly, Bing Crosby (Movies Gold, 6pm)

SKY SPORTS 2
7.00pm The Rugby Club (6161003) **8.00** Cricket Highlights (5028393) **11.00** The Rugby Club (9424567) **12.00** Skiff Sailing (3919691) **12.30am** Coca-Cola Cricket Show (8908610)

SKY TRAVEL
11.00am Globetrotter (1986935) **11.30** Roads to Freedom (1987684) **12.00** Discover Your World (2682022) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian (2962409) **1.00** Around the World in 30 Minutes (2874288) **1.30** Travel Guide (2954480) **2.00** Ski Special (9855886) **3.00** Getaway (4974206) **3.30-4.00** Boomerang (2866515)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL
4.00pm Britain at War (1900515) **5.00** The Red Empire: The History of The Soviet Union (4998885) **6.00-7.00** Biography: Jesus — His Life (2970428)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL
1.00am Swamp Thing (1936097) **1.30** Ray Bradbury Theatre (8258894) **2.00** FILM: Time Travellers (3469455) **3.30-4.00** Ray Bradbury Theatre (7669165)

TLC
9.00am-1.00pm Furniture to Go (9154683) **1.00-4.00** The History Makers (7340119)

UK GOLD
7.00am Angels (1248770) **7.30** Neighbours (1234577) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (9708022) **8.30** EastEnders (9707393) **9.00** The Bill (9798645) **9.30** The Sullivans (1647954) **10.00** All Creatures Great and Small (1223461) **11.00** Dallas (1243225) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (9718409) **12.30pm** Neighbours (1641770) **1.00** EastEnders (1247041) **1.30** The Bill (1640041) **2.00** The Sullivans (72492503) **2.25** Are You Being Served? (3738225) **3.00** Angels (7634683) **3.30** Eldorado (8240645) **4.00** Miss Marple (95575374) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (41892684) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (6024480) **6.25** EastEnders (2684428) **7.00** Eldorado (7826664) **7.30** The Liver Birds (8259393) **8.00** George and Mildred (7835312) **8.30** What a Carry On! (7621119) **9.00** Minder (5083428) **10.00** The Bill (6824041) **10.35** Classic Sport (1848480) **11.35** KYTV (8604954) **12.10am** Dr Who (2782078) **12.40** FILM: Tarzan the Ape Man (9039851) **2.30** Shopping at Night (9213417)

TCC
6.00am Animated Classic Showcase (5249521) **6.45** Tiny (1474751) **7.00** Barney (78428) **7.30** Happily Ever After (57935) **8.00** Earthworm Jim (88770) **8.30** Eek (87041) **9.00** Garfield (78393) **9.30** Where's Wally? (92567) **10.00** Skeleton Warriors (49428) **10.30** Battletech (74577) **11.00** AJ's Time Travellers (32954) **11.30** The Babysitters' Club (33683) **12.00** Art Attack (5826729) **12.15pm** Dish of the Day (4919138) **12.30** No Naked Flames (92503) **1.00** Heartbreak High (42008) **2.00** The Tick (6916) **2.30** Ready or Not (6886) **3.00** Sweet Valley High (8751) **3.30** Hang Time (8003) **4.00** California (7138) **4.30-5.00** Madison (8022)

NICKELODEON
6.00am Blue, Child of The Earth (82683) **6.30** Duckula (74139) **7.00** Bellink (1231022) **7.05** Hero Turtles (3262461) **7.45** Rugrats (682596) **8.15** Doug (768480) **8.45** Rocko (5077041) **9.00** Rude Dog (47409) **9.30** Clarissa (65393) **10.00** Rugrats (89461) **10.30** Pete (35393) **11.00** Fish (70190) **11.30** Doug (88119) **12.00** Rocko (27645)

12.30pm Real Monsters (76409) **1.00** Ship to Shore (17732) **1.30** Dungeons (13683) **2.30** Galaxy High (3770) **3.00** Kissyfur (2935) **3.30** Littlest Pet Shop (5515) **4.00** Christmas Every Day (4022) **4.30** Rugrats (8026) **5.00** Clarissa (7480) **5.30** Nancy Drew (4886) **6.00** Doug (1799) **6.30** Are You Afraid of the Dark? (5751) **7.00** Fish and Chips **7.30-8.00** Nancy Drew (1935)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Driving Passions (8250022) **4.30** Voyager (8256206) **5.00** The Dinosaurs! (7623577) **6.00** Invention (8277799) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (1195577) **7.30** The Science of Star Trek (8257935) **8.00** Into the Unknown (7633954) **8.30** Ultra Science (7612461) **9.00** Blood and Honour (1695003) **9.30** Science Detectives (1636848) **10.00** Into the Unknown (5084157) **11.00** Top Marques (1607848) **11.30-12.00** Special Forces (6995480)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: Huckleberry Finn (6913886) **2.00pm** Danger Man (6994751) **3.00** Scotland Yard (7629751) **3.30** Man from Interpol (8368041) **4.00** FILM: Private's Progress (7630867) **6.00** Scotland Yard (8264225) **6.30** The Critic (8255577) **7.00** The Critic (7611732) **7.30** The Protectors (8244461) **8.00** Space 1999 (5058732) **9.00** The Prisoner (5078596) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Last Exit to Brooklyn (1613409)

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (7087683) **7.00** Living Magazine (6875225) **9.00** The Treatment (2760480) **9.30** Kate and Allie (5863732) **10.00** Hearts of Gold (6854732) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (3648848) **11.55** The Food and Drink Christmas Quiz (6784480) **12.30pm** Brookside (5216770) **1.05** Kilroy (1769577) **2.00** FILM: She'll Take Romance (4284393) **3.50** Entertainment Now! (86591664) **4.00** Infatuation UK (8133374) **4.30** Crosswits (7287138) **5.05** The Joker's Wild (59091206) **5.30** The Young and the Restless (9229393) **6.30** Brookside (6538683) **7.05** The Jerry Springer Show (7806225) **8.00** The Brides of Christ (4043645) **9.00** FILM: Dollhouse Murders (27449935) **10.50** Entertainment Now! (5990886) **11.00-12.00** Love Life (6855461)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm FILM: The Man in the Santa Claus Suit (58581770) **6.50** FILM: The Champ (42281867) **9.05** FILM: Naked Spur (63004111) **10.45** FILM: Good King Wenceslas (27338428) **12.35am** FILM: The Champ (20831784) **2.50-4.30** FILM: Naked Spur (340405)

MTV
6.30am The Grind (27206) **7.00** 3 from 1 (8043225) **7.15** Awake (4683886) **8.00** Music Videos (317683) **10.30** Rockumentary (76935) **11.00** Soul (68041) **12.00** Greatest Hits (28886) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (8965577) **2.15** 3 from 1 (90746954) **2.30** Sports (5916) **3.00** Cinematic (8479799) **3.15** Hanging Out (7802225) **4.00** News (2179393) **4.15** Hanging Out (2169916) **4.30** Dial (8480) **5.00** The Dance Chart (2954) **5.30** Hanging Out (57138) **7.00** Greatest Hits (58480) **8.00** Unledded (94954) **9.30** Beavis and Butthead (28515) **10.00** News (341480) **10.15** Cinematic (346935) **10.30** Aeon Flux (77664) **11.00** The End? (49225) **12.30am** Night Videos (9343252)

VH-1
7.00am Power Breakfast (3224729) **9.00** Christmas Café (1834041) **12.00** VH-100 for You (2943374) **1.00pm** The Vinyl Years (2952022) **2.00** Kermit (9824916) **3.00** Into the Christmas Music (4661062) **6.00** VH-1-2-3: Cher (2972886) **7.00** VH-100 FOR YOU (6163461) **8.00** Egos and Icons: Bon Jovi (6189409) **9.00** Jon Bon Jovi (6169645) **10.00** The Vinyl Years (6162732) **11.00** The Best of the Bridge '95 (8343916) **1.00am** Ten of the Best (1066707) **2.00** Dawn Patrol

ZEE TV
7.00am Asian Morning (11568515) **8.30** Yule Love Stories (62640026) **9.00** Bengali FILM (10052225) **11.30** Surer Daali (44025799) **12.00** Dekh Bhai Dekh (68040082) **12.30pm** India Show (62982138) **1.00** Hindi FILM: Harjayee (25961954) **4.00** Zee Top Ten (44008022) **5.00** Zee Zone (59199732) **5.30** Punjabi Folk (21111596) **6.00** Dillagi (21118409) **6.30** Zee and U (21192461) **7.00** Highlife (59119596) **7.30** Galaxzee (21198645) **8.00** News (59195916) **8.30** Andaz (59107751) **9.00** Urdu Serial Kachey Dhaagey (89851886) **10.00** Zee Horror Show (67690521) **10.30** Commander (47890729) **11.00** Your Zindagi (44009751) **11.30-12.00** Krishna (48401374)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Cartoons from 5am to 8pm; TNT films. 7.00pm Angels in the Outfield (1951) (36800480) **9.00 Travels With My Aunt (1972)** (68979190) **11.00 Across to Singapore (1928)** (16433596) **12.35am Be Beautiful and Shut Up (1958)** (74330900) **2.20-5.00 The Tower of Nesle (1954)** (88013959)

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SPORT

RUGBY UNION 37
BARBARIANS FIND TRADITION HAS A HEAVY PRICE

THURSDAY DECEMBER 28 1995

Newcastle's Premiership lead cut to seven points after defeat at Old Trafford

United bask in Cole's warm glow

Manchester United 2
Newcastle Untied 0

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

SO THE race for the FA Carling Premiership title is all over, trussed up by Newcastle United before the Christmas turkey? Do not make Manchester United laugh. They had over 42,000 witnesses last night to their own defiance. Manchester United were the winners by more than the goals scored by Andy Cole and Roy Keane.

Giggs gave them sheer class, Keane gave them strength and versatility, Cantona gave them captaincy and responsibility . . . and they cut the Newcastle lead to a manageable seven points. Newcastle's only excuse was the early injury that forced Gillespie out of the contest after a quarter of an hour, but for them, now comes the test of character. Manchester United, playing for their championship season, depended on speed and craft and sheer tenacious willpower.

There were long and tedious hours trying to park beforehand, with both televison and radio here live, as one might have expected. For this was the showdown between the Frenchman, Ginola and Cantona, the captain for the first time in his career with Manchester United. How he wore the armband, swaggering with determination to command the pace of the game from his position just behind Cole.

A few days ago, he had given blood, and required six stitches in the colours of Manchester United at Elland Road. Now he would give a personal impersonation of an outcast made leader.

As early as the fifth minute he spreadeagled Newcastle's black and white lines with a penetrating through ball for Keane. The Irishman, himself in resurgent, powerful form after recovering from his hernia operation, was bravely closed down by Peacock.

A clash of the titans. Peacock won the ball with his body, and even on the ground won the ricochet.

It served only to turn up the turbo boost of Manchester. They had gambled by thrusting Giggs into the game despite his recent foot injury. They needed his pace, needed his touch of genius.

He provided both in the sixth minute, finishing his run withsuch precise power, hitting the ball across the white, frosty surface for the lurking Cole.

And Cole, a player struggling to fulfil expectations at Old Trafford, suddenly finished with unhesitating precision of his own, driving the ball right-footed past the stranded Srnicek and just inside the penalty area. It was his fifth goal of the season, his second in successive games, and it was a touch that one might almost say was worth £7 million.

Manchester United were full of purpose and legitimate aggression. If Newcastle are, as their supporters have begun to sing, the real United, the pretenders to the crown, they were going to have to work through minefields of explosive challenges to win this match.

Keane, so irrepressible when he channels his fire this way, had Butt at his side but the younger man was more than just an apprentice. His tackles snapped into the heels of Beardsley and Lee. For all their experience and class, the Newcastle pair could not find breathing space. Neither could Ginola, who was smothered by Irwin, playing at right back in this reshuffled Manchester rearguard.

Inside him, Gary Neville, the England full back, was manfully sharing with May responsibility for policing Ferdinand.

They did it well. For almost half an hour, Ferdinand was an isolated forward, no one in his team finding the time, the room, the inspiration to get up in support.

And on the break Giggs was still taunting the Newcastle defence. Barton was booked in the 21st minute for a foul on him. And when, 14 minutes later, referee Alcock showed the yellow card for a second time, he momentarily lost the plot. It was, in fact, Beresford who received this booking, but both full backs are blond, and Alcock showed the red card to Beresford, then realised his error, put the card back in his pocket, and was left with a face of the same hue.

But the match still pulsated. Ferdinand came out of his isolation before half-time when Howey drove perceptively through the midfield. The pass from Howey, the timing from Ferdinand, defeated Manchester's offside intent. It left Ferdinand one-on-one against Schmeichel. The position was similar to that in which the Ghanaian, Tony Yeboah, had chipped Schmeichel for Leeds last Saturday.

Ferdinand is an Englishman, a prolific one, but not as imaginative as the African. He drove hard and low, straight at the advancing Schmeichel, and the ball deflected to safety off the goalkeeper's right calf.

Moments after that, Ginola, for once finding space on the right, produced a spectacular, outswinging cross, though not as spectacular as the wonderful leap and stretch of Schmeichel to catch it.

One more muscular moment of Ferdinand, wrestling May to the ground just on half-time, threatened to upset Manchester United's equilibrium. Because May could not recover from a thigh injury, Keane had to step back into the defence, with McClair coming into midfield.

If it mattered to anyone, it was not Keane. Five minutes into the second half, Giggs had struck the Newcastle crossbar, but Manchester were not in the mood to be repelled by anything. Moments after that Philip Neville crossed the ball from the left flank and who should be there beyond the far post but Keane. He was not marked at all and he needed one touch to control the moving ball, the second to volley it uncompromisingly past Srnicek, whose demeanour was that of a paralysed, startled rabbit.

Had Cole not misfired with a third goal at his mercy, Newcastle would be down and out.

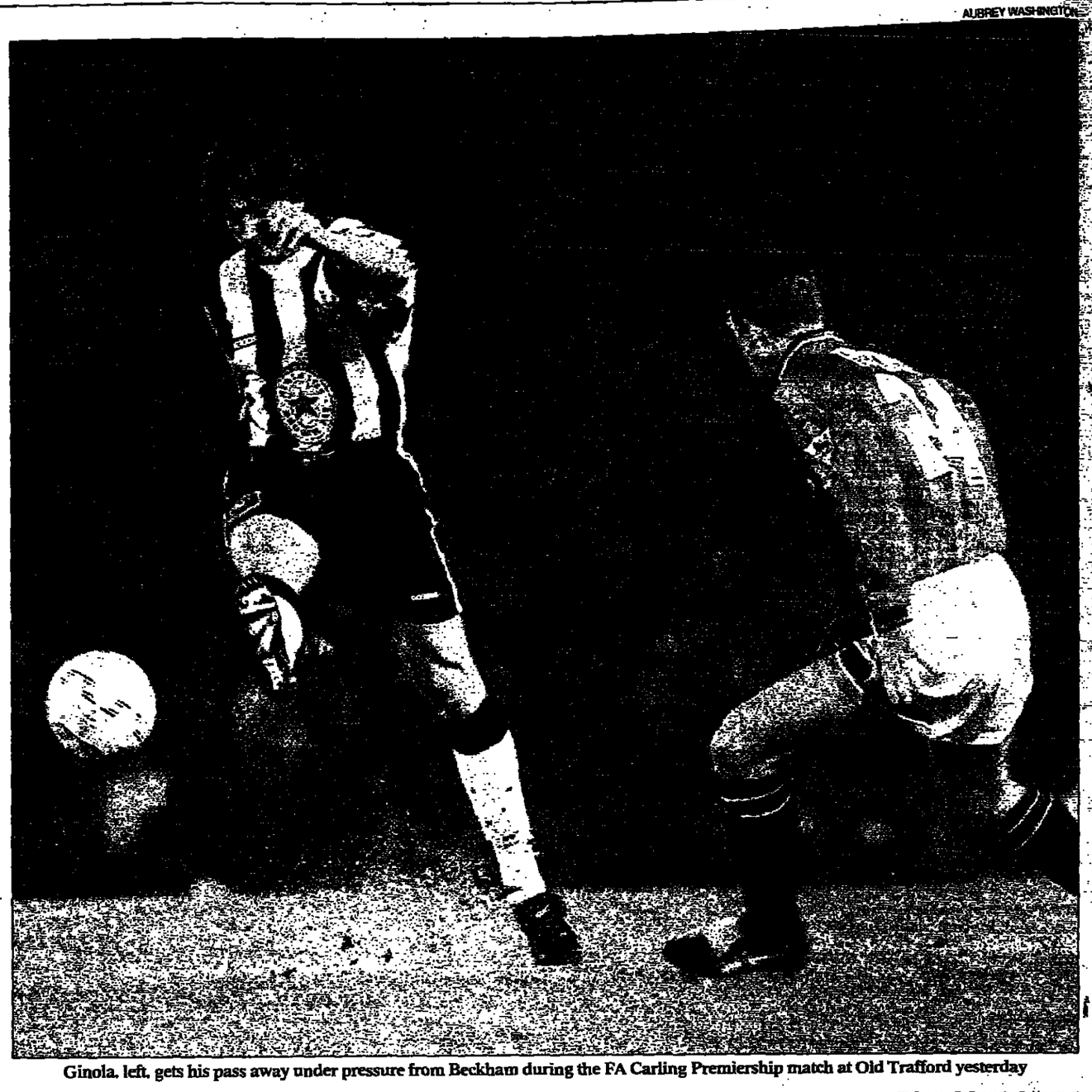
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, D May (sub: B McClair, 48min), G Neville, P Neville — D Beckham, R Keane, N Butt, R Giggs — E Cantona — A Cole

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-1-4-1): P Srnicek — W Barton, D Peacock, S Howey, J Beresford — L Park — K Gillespie (sub: S Watson, 15), R Lee, P Beardsley, D Ginola — L Ferdinand.

Referee: P Alcock.

☐ Celtic have added a new dimension to their burgeoning youth policy by inviting Heini Otto, the Ajax coach, to help to train some of their young players. Otto was in Scotland yesterday and assisted the Parkhead managerial team of Tommy Burns and Billy Stark in coaching youngsters between the ages of eight and 14. Otto coaches the youthful Ajax team, which captured the European Cup last season.

AUBREY WASHINGTON



Ginola, left, gets his pass away under pressure from Beckham during the FA Carling Premiership match at Old Trafford yesterday

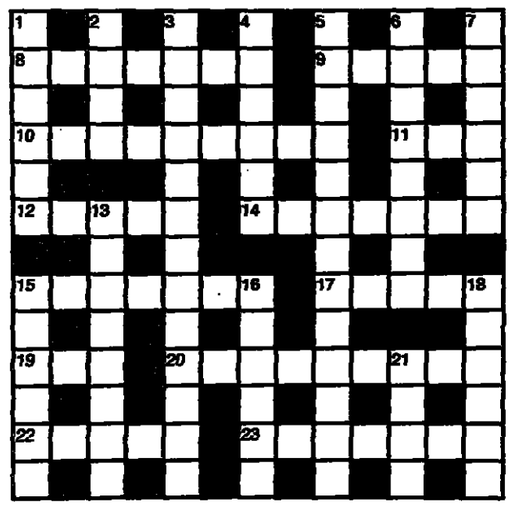
TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newcastle..	20	14	3	3	40	18	45
Man Utd.....	20	11	5	4	38	22	38
Tottenham	20	9	8	3	26	19	35
Liverpool.....	19	10	4	5	34	16	34
Arsenal	20	9	7	4	27	15	34
Middsbro	20	9	6	5	23	18	33
Aston Villa.....	19	9	5	5	25	15	32
Nottm Forest	19	7	10	2	29	27	31
Blackburn ...	20	8	4	8	31	25	28
Leeds..	18	8	4	6	26	25	28
Chelsea	20	7	7	6	19	21	28
Everton	20	7	5	8	27	22	26
West Ham .	19	6	5	8	21	28	23
Sheff Wed ...	20	5	7	8	28	30	22
Southampton	20	4	7	9	19	30	19
Wimbledon ..	20	4	6	10	26	40	18
QPR..	20	5	3	12	15	29	18
Man City... .	20	4	4	12	10	30	16
Coventry	19	3	6	10	25	41	15
Bolton	19	2	4	13	18	36	10

Not including Bolton v Leeds

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 663 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
8 Greed (7)
9 Tropical climbing plant (5)
10 Like a wild party (9)
11 The Flood rescue vessel (3)
12 — Marner (*George Eliot*) (5)
14 Instructor (7)
15 Discriminating eater (7)
17 Aus. wild dog (5)
19 Killer whale; sea monster (3)
20 Ridiculous (9)
22 Group of flying geese (5)
23 Pip's love (*Great Expectations*) (7)

DOWN
1 Very well-known (6)
2 Douglas —, Flanders C-in-C (4)
3 Taking to pieces (13)
4 Work for seven players (6)
5 Non-colour (TV); (in) downright terms (5-3-5)
6 Longest footrace (8)
7 One on foot: frame for toddler (6)
13 Rocket-firing device (8)
15 Game bird; complain (6)
16 Hairpiece (6)
18 (Street) with no contraflow (3-3)
21 Telephone inventor: Bronte pen-name (4)

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All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP. The solution will appear next Wednesday, and the winners' names on January 10.

Name/Address .....

.....

SOLUTION TO No 662
ACROSS: 1 Cyprus 4 Afinat 8 Duty 9 Gauntlet 10 Foolhardy 13 Tudor 15 Slush 16 Bench 18 Meditator 21 Footnote 22 Damn 23 Zephyr 24 Tiptoe
DOWN: 1 Codify 2 Pathogen 3 Sigma 5 Fancy that 6 Only. 7 Tether 11 Hush money 12 Round 14 Disract 16 Buzfuz 17 Prince 19 Inept 20 Soup

Eastern promise in England agenda

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

ENGLAND have arranged international matches against Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary, all at Wembley, in the run-up to the European football championship finals next year. It is a schedule full of Eastern promise, particularly the challenges presented by Bulgaria and Croatia, and should give Terry Venables, the England coach, an accurate guide to his side's progress before the serious business begins.

Bulgaria visit on March 27, Croatia on April 24 and Hungary on May 18. England will then take a break before embarking on a six-day mini-tour, possibly to South Africa or the United States, to conclude their competitive preparations for the start of the finals on June 8, when they play Switzerland.

David Davies, director of public affairs at the Football Association, said: "The priority has been to get what the England coach wants, in terms of matches and the balance of the programme. Terry wants to get it just right and he's very happy with the matches."

Hungary failed miserably in their European championship qualifying campaign, but their players will be keen to impress in the inevitable rebuilding process aimed at the World Cup qualifying series.

Bulgaria and Croatia are likely to place greater emphasis on all-round acclimatisation and perhaps even damage limitation. Bulgaria, World Cup semi-finalists last year, possess some of the most talented individuals in Europe, led by the moody and unpredictable Hristo Stoichkov.

Croatia, also European championship finalists, will provide a similar examination of England's credentials. They were due to play at Wembley on September 6 but the match was cancelled because of the conflict in the Balkans, with England instead playing Colombia. "The peace settlement in the area has now removed any worries on that front," Davies said.

Northern Ireland have an impressive list of forthcoming fixtures at Windsor Park. They meet Norway on March 27, Sweden on April 24 and Germany on May 29, and hope that Holland will agree to visit on June 4.

Stewart's worrying run continues

FROM SIMON WILDE
IN PORT ELIZABETH

ENGLAND'S cricketers face an arduous task to stay in contention in the fourth Test match after a gruelling and frustrating second day at St George's Park yesterday. Kept in the field for 11 hours while South Africa scored 428, they then lost Alec Stewart in Shaun Pollock's first over before Michael Atherton and Jason Gallian, not without alarms, saw them through to 40 for one by the close.

Stewart's unnecessary dismissal, caught at the wicket chasing a ball outside off stump, continued a sorry sequence. He last recorded a half-century in Test cricket 16 months and 15 innings ago.

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, responded by quickly calling up Paul Adams into the attack. The left-arm wrist spinner, the youngest South African to appear in Test cricket, began with two maiden overs and had Gallian dropped at short leg before he had scored. With the ball starting to keep low on a pitch promising turn, England's hopes of remaining on level terms are under threat.

England were also concerned by an injury during the afternoon session to Mark Ilott, who pulled up with a strain in his left thigh in the course of his thirtieth over. Ilott left the field and did not return. It is feared that the injury will restrict his movement for the remainder of the game and, with the final match of the series starting on Tuesday, he must be doubtful for the Cape Town Test match.

If Ilott is incapacitated, there will be an unexpected opportunity for Darren Gough or Angus Fraser to re-establish himself in the Test side. Neither has played in the Tests since the match in Johannesburg nearly four weeks ago and Fraser might have expected not to play again on the tour.

After Cape Town, several players will be sent home before a series of seven one-day internationals starts on January 9. Three limited-overs specialists joined the England party yesterday: Neil Fairbrother, Dermot Reeve and Neil Smith.

England partly had themselves to blame for their long stay in the field yesterday. As heat and tiredness took their toll they missed six catches, most of them clear-cut and all off the unfortunate Illingworth, who dropped two sharp returns himself. None of the misses proved expensive but the cumulative effect was to add to England's frustrations.

Ironically, many of the catches England held were outstanding, Russell in particular having another excellent day. He finished with four catches, one stumping and a part in the run-out of Adams. Nor did Russell, who created a world Test record with 11 catches in the Johannesburg Test match, concede any byes during an innings that occupied 159.5 overs.



Ilott: strained thigh

England's uphill battle . 38
Throwing row subsides 38

☐ England will play two Test matches and three one-day internationals over the Christmas period during their first tour of Zimbabwe next year.
ITINERARY: Nov 30: District. (Harare South County Club). Dec 1: President's XI (Harare Sports Club). Dec 3-6: Mashonaland (Harare Sports Club). Dec 8: Matabeleland (Queen's Club). Dec 10-13: Matabeleland (Queen's Club). Dec 15: First one-day International (Queen's Club). Dec 18-22: First Test (Queen's Club). Dec 26-30: Second Test (Harare Sports Club). Jan 1: Second one-day International (Harare Sports Club). Jan 3: Third one-day international (Harare Sports Club)

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